

I'm not Abalos' mistress, says woman



EVELYN Catherine Silagon

By Kristine L. Alave

SHE'S BEEN IN PUBLIC relations, but nothing prepared her for the image crisis that would befall her after being exposed in an explosive, televised hearing as the alleged mistress of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

The single mother whose name Sen. I'M NOT/ A18

SPORTS / A27

Eagles force do-or-die match with Archers for UAAP Finals slot

LIFESTYLE/ F3

Iconic shirt for boxing icon



LIFESTYLE/ C2

No more hiding for gorgeous model-doctor

BUSINESS / B1

RP stocks at 8-week high; Asian shares at record peaks

Red-faced Miriam says sorry to China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AN EMBARRASSED Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday apologized for saying that China "invented corruption" during a heated hearing on

RED-FACED/ A8



Neri faces more grilling

He can provide GMA's direct link to NBN-Cayetano

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROMULO NERI IS NOT YET in the clear, according to senators bent on getting the complete story of how the Arroyo administration came to approve the \$329-million deal with China's ZTE Corp. despite a purported bribe offer.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, yesterday said he believed that the former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority could provide the missing piece in the story that would "directly link" President Macapagal-Arroyo to the corruption scandal.

Cayetano, who heads the joint inquiry into the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal awarded to ZTE, said the blue ribbon, trade and defense committees would discuss on Monday how to challenge Neri's continued invoking of executive privilege to evade questions on the President's involvement.

If the senators are not convinced that

NERI FACES/ A18

Roxas calls deal 'overpriced intercom facility'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. MANUEL ROXAS III DOUBTS THE government's claim that the National Broadband Network (NBN) project would bring it substantial savings in telecommunication bills, saying the NBN was just an "overpriced intercom facility."

"Basically what we are trying to save with this system is just the intercom, or government's communication with other government agencies but not its communication with nongovernment agencies using private services," Roxas said at the third Senate hearing on the \$329-million contract for the NBN project awarded to Chi-

ROXAS/ A8



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE for a beaming President Arroyo at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). Ms Arroyo has plenty to be giddy about as ex-President Bill Clinton introduces her with lavish praise as a head of state and a classmate at Georgetown University during the CGI opening plenary at the Sheraton New York Hotel. H. Lee Scott, president/CEO of Wal-Mart, and World Bank president Robert Zoelick are in the middle.

MALACANANG PHOTO

FROM BROADBAND TO BROADWAY

Clinton: Everybody is afraid of Gloria

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—FORMER US President Bill Clinton on Wednesday applauded President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts at turning around her country's economy and said that in the Philippines "everybody is afraid of Gloria."

Battered at home by controversies, Ms Arroyo got a much-needed pat on the back at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), a high-profile forum set up in 2005 for global and business leaders to tackle the world's major challenges.

A giddy Ms Arroyo could not help but bask in Clinton's compliment, recounting it in a meeting with the Filipino community hours after the CGI forum.

"Congratulations. The Philippines is having an economic renaissance," Ms Arroyo

CLINTON/ A12



SLEEPLESS IN NY: President Arroyo's flurry of must-dos included watching the Philippines' pride, Lea Salonga, in "Les Miserables" on Broadway. They are flanked by Fil-Ams Adam Jacobs and Ali Ewolt who also play lead roles.

GMA takes break; is entranced by Lea in 'Les Miz'

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—For more than three hours on Wednesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo put behind her broadband woes and other worldly problems and went to Broadway to enjoy Lea Salonga's performance in "Les Miserables."

Here for the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, where she will speak on Fri-

GMA TAKES/ A12

Only treason not basis for impeach rap vs Abalos

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

"ONLY TREASON WAS LEFT OUT OF all the possible grounds for impeachment under the Constitution. It's only because the country is not at war," Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said as he

filed his impeachment complaint against Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday.

Feeling the heat, Abalos yesterday asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to stay out of the impeachment complaint filed against him for allegedly brokering the \$329-million contract

for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"I hope he won't interfere," Abalos told reporters after appearing at a hearing in the House of Representatives on the proposed Comelec budget for next year.

The Speaker is the father of Abalos'

main accuser, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, who has claimed that the Comelec chair offered him \$10 million to withdraw his company's unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

The Comelec chair pointed out yesterday that the Speaker had "loyalists"

ONLY TREASON/ A10

Man in eye of storm calm morning after

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN IN THE EYE OF THE storm was unexpectedly calm after a day of intense grilling at the Senate.

Walking into Rooms 1 and 2 of the Mitra building, where his agency's proposed budget for 2008 was to be scrutinized by the House, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. appeared none the worse for wear.

"You look relaxed," noted Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House committee on appropriations.

Later, the 72-year-old Abalos told reporters: "I know I have not committed any wrong. That's why I feel relaxed."

Yesterday's budget hearing, which took nearly four hours, was the concluding session before the proposed P1.227-trillion national budget is tackled in plenary next week.

Abalos appeared before Lagman's

MAN IN EYE/ A10



MILITARY MIGHT stops monks in their tracks in Burma's largest city, Rangoon. The Buddhist priesthood, Burma's highest moral authority, is going head-to-head with the ruling junta.

REUTERS

Burma junta intensifies crackdown; monks defiant

RANGOON—SECURITY FORCES swept through Rangoon (Yangon) on Thursday, arresting hundreds of people and warning of "extreme" action in an intensified crackdown on protesters that drew international appeals to the military junta of Burma (Myanmar) to exercise restraint.

About 10,000 antigovernment protesters faced off against troops around the Buddhist Sule pagoda to demonstrate their anger over early

morning raids on Buddhist monasteries in which monks were beaten and arrested.

After firing warning shots, the troops issued an ultimatum threatening "extreme action" unless the protesters dispersed. Thousands scattered in panic as security forces moved in and arrested at least 100 protesters.

There were reports of tens of thousands more protesters in other parts of Burma's biggest

BURMA/ A17

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Manila Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bohol Mostly Cloudy
Baguiro Partly Cloudy	Roxas Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao Partly Cloudy	Cebu Mostly Cloudy
Laos Partly Cloudy	Tacloban Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos Mostly Cloudy
Tegaytay Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga Mostly Cloudy
Cagayon Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro Mostly Cloudy
Calapan Mostly Cloudy	Davao Mostly Cloudy

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3 7 9 1 2 8

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

7 9 10 19 22 36

P38,395,249.20

Senate rejection of Jpepa seen

Miriam says she may surrender on RP-Japan trade treaty

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER THREE HEARINGS, THE PROPOSED trade treaty between the Philippines and Japan is on the verge of defeat in the Senate after government officials again failed to convince the senators of the treaty's benefits to the country.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the foreign relations committee, said

yesterday she was considering not submitting a committee report on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) to the Senate plenary.

She said if she had to submit a report, it would only recommend that the Senate not ratify the Jpepa.

At yesterday's hearing, groups opposed to the treaty even managed to impress Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon.

Siazon commended Junk Jpepa

lawyer Golda Benjamin for her "excellent, thorough, articulate and well-researched" arguments that the treaty would promote the entry into the Philippines of toxic and other hazardous waste from Japan.

Under Jpepa, the tariff rates for hazardous waste would be reduced to zero.

Siazon, who flew back to Tokyo after the hearing, said the Philippines needed the support of a "technologically ad-

vanced" country like Japan to deal with its own hazardous waste.

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla, meanwhile, stunned the senators when he disproved the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' claim that Japan would not export hazardous waste to the Philippines.

Padilla said the Department of Health had "concerns" that the treaty would allow for reciprocity, meaning that both the

Philippines and Japan could export hazardous waste to each other.

"While we agree with the noble objectives of the Jpepa, we feel we do live in an imperfect world," he said.

Santiago told reporters during a break in the hearing: "If this were a boxing match, I already gave the first two rounds to those against the Jpepa. Today, I still give round three to those opposed to the Jpepa."

Enrile berates finance execs

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE yesterday berated the Department of Finance for illegally manipulating and tinkering with the excise tax on cigarettes which could further undermine the government's lower-than-expected collection from "sin taxes."

Enrile said the department violated the law when it reduced the excise tax on the cigarette brand Pall Mall of the British American To-

tabacco (Philippines) Ltd. by reclassifying from a high priced brand with a tax rate of P25 per pack to a mid-size brand with a tax rate of P6.74 per pack.

This, Enrile said, would reduce the tax collections by roughly P100 million a year.

"You have a problem," Enrile told finance officials at the budget hearing yesterday. Enrile said the DOF "tinkered with a policy that we adopted."

He said the department officials

issued a ruling in the cigarette area where they made a downward classification, which is prohibited by law. This is going to affect revenue collection "because that same formula affects other sin products, the spir-its," said Enrile.

Enrile questioned the DOF for lowering the tax on Pall Mall based solely on a survey when the Bureau of Internal Revenue had already classified Pall Mall as a premium brand subject to premium taxes.



GORDON VERSUS CARAGUE: All's well...

ROGER MARGALLO

'Hannah' moves into RP

By TJ Burgonio

A TROPICAL DEPRESSION HAS swirled into the country's "area of responsibility" and is expected to induce the southwest monsoon that will bring rain over the country, according to weather forecasters.

Depression "Hannah," estimated to be at 150 km east of Catanduanes at 4 p.m. yesterday, was still too far to have an effect on any part of the coun-

try, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"If it will hit land, it's going to batter northern Luzon. But it's too early to say. It will take three days before it hits land," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview.

"Whatever thunderstorm or rain-shower we are experiencing right now, that's not a direct effect of the tropical depression," he added.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ERAP SEEKS COURT
OK to visit ailing mother

/A6

HK POP STAR FIRED
21 RP maids in 3 years, is blacklisted

/A6

Senate sit-com spills over to budget hearing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE TENSION IN THE SENATE INVESTIGATIONS of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project and the "Hello Garci" scandal appears to have spilled over into other hearings.

Sen. Richard Gordon and Commission on Audit chair Guillermo Carague got into a heated argument during a budget hearing that resulted in Carague nearly walking out and Gordon calling security to detain him for contempt.

The verbal tussle started when Gordon and Carague began debating fiercely on whether or not the COA could initiate corruption complaints in the course of its work.

"Our role is merely to report. We are not the Ombudsman. We now have 10,000 people and we will need 100,000 if we are to initiate cases because our reports are replete with anomalies in many government agencies," Carague said, to which Gordon replied that the COA could initiate complaints.

The debate continued after Carague pointed out that the best way to run the government was to have not only honest but competent people running it.

Carague cited Singapore as one country that was doing well because it paid good people to run its government.

Gordon countered that Singapore was doing well because it enforced its laws, not because its people were better than Filipinos.

At this point, both Gordon and Carague resented being lectured by the other.

When Gordon told Carague he was "out of line," Carague excused himself and made a move for the door.

"No, no, no, you cannot go right now. Can you call the sergeant at arms and place this gentleman in contempt? I don't know why you're hot-headed," Gordon

barked to Carague.

Carague called Gordon "dictatorial," "uncouth" and "the problem" and he complained loudly that the senator was putting him down.

After berating Carague for mispronouncing "uncouth," Gordon chided him for being "sensitive" and repeated his order to the guards to place him in contempt.

"I am the problem? I don't why you feel so abused. I wasn't even abusing you. I'm trying to get your comments. I even called you Gem [Carague's nickname]. I did not even call you Mr. Carague. This is a senator of the Republic of the Philippines. I was elected, you were appointed," Gordon said, adding that he had previously placed Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio in contempt.

"Mr. Carague took offense at statements made which were made in good faith. They weren't even critical of COA. All of a sudden, he was very high-handed calling the Senate names, calling me names. I'm sorry you feel that way. I'm really shocked," said Gordon, who demanded an apology from Carague.

A few minutes after retaking his seat, and with Gordon proceeding with the hearing as if nothing happened, Carague stood up and walked to where Gordon was sitting to make peace.

"I would like to apologize for any adverse comment I may have made. I'd like to put it on record that I have high respect and admiration for Senator Gordon," Carague said.

Later, in an interview with reporters, he blamed his outburst on problems that had been bothering him.

Gordon, in a separate interview, said he accepted Carague's apology, attributing his outburst to "high blood pressure."

Army, MILF trade barbs

LEADERS OF THE ARMY AND THE COUNTRY'S largest Muslim separatist group accused each other yesterday of breaking a four-year ceasefire, as a flare-up of fighting in troubled Mindanao threatened to scuttle planned peace talks.

The military accused members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which signed a truce in 2003, of helping a band of Abu Sayyaf rebels during a firefight on Basilan island on Tuesday.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said government troops had entered rebel territory without coordinating with a ceasefire panel and attacked an MILF camp in the Tipo-tipo area. A fierce three-hour battle ensued.

"Our troops were only defending their posi-

tions," Kabalu told reporters. "There were no Abu Sayyaf members in the area as the military has been claiming. We already filed a protest before the ceasefire panel."

The tension between the Army and the MILF is raising doubts whether informal peace talks next month in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur will resume as scheduled.

Tuesday's firefight broke a lull of almost a month on Basilan island, where the Army is pursuing around 50 members of the Abu Sayyaf, a small Islamic militant group with ties to al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah.

Two soldiers were killed and 10 wounded on Tuesday when troops attacked a camp of Abu Sayyaf militants, who also suffered an undetermined number of casualties. **Reuters, AFP**

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Military bars Senate hearing at Fort Boni

MILITARY AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY stopped detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV from conducting a committee hearing inside the Fort Bonifacio Army and Marine headquarters.

The former Navy junior officer, who is detained on coup d'etat charges, had called a second hearing of the Senate committee on civil service and government reorganization, which he chairs, at 10 a.m. yesterday to tackle two bills proposing amendments to the Custom Broker Act of 2004.

But officers at the Marines barracks turned away Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David and resource persons from the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance as well as Senate staff.

Aside from committee hearings, the military has also banned future visits from government officials.

Trillanes' chief of staff Reynaldo Robles, who claimed that the order came from Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., denounced what happened as "a pure act of political harassment."

"We consider this an interference in the performance of the duties of a senator. Esperon cannot accept that Trillanes was elected by the people," he said in a mixture of English and Filipino.

As a senator, Trillanes can hold his committee hearings "anywhere in the country," according to Robles.

He insisted Trillanes did not need to get a

court order nor permission from the military to hold hearings in the Marine brig.

Trillanes was able to hold a first committee hearing, an organizational meeting, last Sept. 20 without any interference.

But that meeting was not announced to the media by Trillanes' staff, unlike yesterday's aborted hearing.

"We were surprised at the sudden change because over the last few months he's been allowed to receive staff and public officials," said Robles.

Ambassador Domingo Siazon, the country's envoy to Japan, recently visited Trillanes to brief him on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

Robles said they would ask the Senate to "take action" against the military.

He said the Trillanes camp is also considering the filing of criminal charges against the officers at the Marine barracks, including Esperon, for allegedly interfering in Trillanes' Senate duties.

Trillanes is on trial before a civilian and military court for involvement in the failed July 2003 coup, in which he and about 300 heavily armed junior officers and soldiers occupied the former Oakwood Premier Hotel at the Makati financial center for more than 24 hours.

Despite being in jail, Trillanes was elected senator last May. But the Makati court trying him on coup d'etat charges has denied him permission to be let out of jail to attend Senate sessions. **Dona Pazzibugan**

Fat ain't cute, docs warn Pinoy parents

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NINETY PERCENT OF FILIPINOS ARE AT risk of suffering heart ailments because of unhealthy lifestyles, with Filipino children facing a bigger risk because adults misconstrue obesity as "cute."

The Philippine Heart Association (PHA) said that far from being cute, fat children are in danger of developing heart disease, hypertension and other cardiovascular complications, as well as cancer, stroke, diabetes, severe pancreatitis, pulmonary diseases, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, gout and gynecological abnormalities.

Obesity is the No. 1 health problem in the world, with more than 1.1 billion people overweight and 300 million of them obese, according to Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy, program director of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center Diabetes Care Clinic and chair of the Philippine Diabetes Association council on childhood.

Increasing trend toward obesity

Speaking before the PHA "Puso sa Puso" media forum last Wednesday, Sy said there is an increasing trend toward obesity among children six months to 10 years old.

Figures show that from 1963 to 2000, trends in childhood obesity have escalated showing that Filipino children are growing fatter through the years.

Sy attributed this to technology as Filipino kids tend to watch more television, play more video games and spend longer periods in front of personal computers instead of engaging in physical activity.

"Studies have shown that high technology increases body weight. Cellular phones and remote controls deprive us of the pleasure of walking," Sy said.

She cited a 2003 study showing that 60.1 percent of Filipino adults are "sedentary" or not physically active.

She also stressed that changes in eating behavior contribute to childhood obesity where "there is an increase in the intake of fatty food, emphasis on fast food and readily available soda pop in school."

Philippine Heart Center and St. Luke's Medical Center pedia-cardio consultant Aurora Gamponia told the forum that based on a cardiovascular risk analysis study in 1999, 15 million Filipino children are under threat with 25 percent of them obese.

An earlier 1998 study revealed that among children aged between 1 to 5 years, 9 of every 1,000 are overweight while among children 6 to 10 years of age, 2 of every 1,000 are overweight.

She said the trends show that the figures continue to grow nine years after the study.

Gamponia said children who are at high risk of suffering cardiovascular diseases are those who are born to parents who are themselves at high risk of suffering heart ailments, those with one parent who has suffered a stroke before reaching the age of 55, and those in whose family hypertension is prevalent among members younger than 55 years old.

She recommended diet modification, more physical activity, less time devoted to television or video games, and for the children's parents to quit smoking.

Change the mindset

"We must change the mindset that they are still just kids so they can eat or do anything they like. We have to change that particular concept and encourage them to start being healthy while they are still kids," Gamponia said.

Cristina Dablo of the Department of Health (DOH) attributed the growing number of people at high risk of suffering cardiovascular disease to rapid cultural changes in the society.

She said a 2000 study revealed that six of 10 leading causes of mortality were "lifestyle-related," with hypertension identified among the leading causes of morbidity and "the No. 1 killer in society today."

"Ninety percent of Filipinos have one or more of these risk factors," she said.

The Wednesday forum was organized by the PHA, a non-stock and non-profit organization established to serve as the center of cardiology research, training and education in the country, for the celebration on Sept. 30 of World Heart Day.

Latin heritage explains why RP is poor, says US study

THE PHILIPPINES' POOR ECONOMIC performance may be due to a Latin cultural heritage that gave rise to powerful political families pursuing their own rather than the state's interests, according to a new study.

Some 330 years of Spanish rule influenced the Philippines greatly, an impact that survived nearly 50 years of later colonial occupation by the United States, the study by Robert Nelson of the University of Maryland said.

This Spanish Catholic influence, in contrast to the US Protestant model, led to a "dominant political role" by large landholding families in the Philippines just like in Latin America, Nelson said.

A weak government and powerful political oligarchies combined to put the state in the service of private interests, he added.

"If culture is now to be considered an important economic influence, it may be that this common Spanish Catholic heritage is a main contributing factor in the economic histories of the Philippines and most of

Latin America," the study said.

These cultural attitudes "now stand in the way of freer markets and a more successful political democracy," said Nelson, who undertook the study as a visiting fellow at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

In the 1950s, according to a World Bank study at the time, the Philippines was destined to become the region's second Japan.

But it missed out almost completely on the foreign investment-fueled Asian boom of the 1970s to the 1990s.

By 2000, Philippine per capita income exceeded only Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North Korea and Burma.

Particular problems like large fiscal deficits, inflation or corruption might be cited as reasons why the Philippines has failed to attract high levels of foreign investment, Nelson said.

But that failed to explain the policy failures behind those problems in the first place, he argued. **AFP**

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HK pop star fired 21 Pinay maids in 3 years, is blacklisted

HONG KONG—HONG KONG Canto-pop star Jacky Cheung has been banned from hiring any more maids from the Philippines after firing 21 in three years, a newspaper said on Thursday.

Cheung and his wife, former actress May Lo, were placed on a "blacklist of sub-standard employers" maintained by the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong after hiring and firing 21

maids in three years, the South China Morning Post reported. His track record has earned him the nickname of the "terminator" within the local Filipino community.

Joel Blas, an assistant national officer at the Philippines consulate, was quoted as saying his consul-general had met Lo last week to explain she'd "not be allowed to hire any helpers from

the Philippines for one year."

Considered one of the four "Cantopop Heavenly Kings," Cheung has built up a huge pan-Asian fan base in a career spanning more than 20 years.

The blacklisting comes after a former Filipino helper working under Cheung, Preslyn-saga Catacutan, was controversially jailed last year for stealing photographs and a letter from the star. **Reuters**

Erap seeks court OK to visit ailing mother

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WHILE POSTPONING ACTION ON a proffered presidential pardon that would allow him to be with his ailing mother all the time, convicted plunderer former President Joseph Estrada has sought the permission of the Sandiganbayan anew to visit her this weekend.

In a three-page motion, Estrada's lawyer, Rene Saguisag, informed the anti-graft court's Special Division that Mary Ejercito's condition had worsened due to an infection she recently acquired.

The Estrada family doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, wrote to the ousted president on Tuesday to inform him he had started administering antibiotics to his 102-year-old mother for the infection, as well as other drugs to stabilize her erratic blood pressure.

Estrada had indicated earlier that he would accept an absolute pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo that would entail no admission of guilt on his part if it was the only way he could be with his mother.

"I just need to be with her in the last few months. You know how close I am to her," Estrada had told

the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

On Tuesday, however, Estrada chose not to accept for the meantime the unconditional pardon offered by Malacañang through Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

Instead, his lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the guilty verdict handed down against him by the Sandiganbayan.

In the motion seeking a pass, Saguisag asked the court to allow Estrada to visit his mother either on Saturday or Sunday, or at the soonest possible time.

The prosecution did not object to the motion.

"We made a promise before that when it came to his mother we would not object," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

He said, however, that Estrada's security detail should be doubled since he had been convicted by the anti-graft court.

Estrada, meanwhile, appealed to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support his quest to overturn the guilty verdict against him by withholding "summary judgment" on his case.



ESTRADA

In a statement, Estrada told the bishops: "I will continue with my plans for the reconsideration... and I hope that the CBCP can support me in this since this is part of the judicial process."

He said that if there was one person who should return illegally amassed wealth, it was former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, his erstwhile friend who blew the whistle on him.

Estrada claimed the paper trail of the P540-million "jueteng" payoffs and the P130-million in tobacco excise taxes he was accused of taking led "incontrovertibly" to Singson.

Wives lead moral support for officers in court-martial

By Nikko Dizon

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE Marine and Scout Ranger officers and men facing mutiny charges will attend today's court martial hearing at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal wearing shirts declaring their support for the accused mutineers.

Conceived by the officers' wives, the shirts call on the country's "few good men... to rise up and be counted."

The shirts bear the images of the 28 officers, led by former Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and ex-Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danny Lim and the names of the 40 enlisted men jailed along with the offi-

cers after being accused by the Armed Forces of mounting a military coup in February last year.

At the bottom of the images is emblazoned their "battlecry": "The truth shall set us free."

Written at the back of the shirt is a message entitled "A Few Good Men," describing the kind of men this "dying nation" needs.

The message says the country needs "men of will who dare to go against tyrants and oppressors."

Families and friends will also sell the shirts in order to raise funds for the families of the 40 enlisted personnel—jailed along with their husbands—whose salaries would no

longer be paid once they are arraigned.

"It's in anticipation of that eventuality. Rather than beg, we will help the wives of the soldiers to be self-supporting," said Maria Flor Querubin, wife of Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, who is also detained in Tanay.

The officers' wives worked double time on the shirts, putting finishing touches on the design and the text, even testing the silkscreen to be used to print the message, so that they could launch their little project today.

The officers' wives have complained that security measures at the camp had been "unreasonably" tightened recently.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 28, 2007
25th Week in Ordinary Time
Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila and Companions / Wenceslaus

1st Reading: Hg 2:1-9
Gospel: Luke 9:18-22

One day when Jesus was praying alone, not far from his disciples, he asked them, "What do people say about me?" And they answered, "Some say that you are John the Baptist; others say that you are Elijah, and still others that you are one of the former prophets risen from the dead." Again Jesus asked them, "Who then do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." Then Jesus spoke to them, giving them strict orders not to tell this to anyone.

And he added, "The Son of Man must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the elders and chief priests and teachers of the Law, and put to death. Then after three days he will be raised to life."

Commentary

The people barely remember what the house of the Lord/temple looked like because their exile had been so long. But they are to take heart and have courage for God will be with them in their work. God remains with them as their God, and they are his people still. The day will come when God will dwell with them once again and the future glory of the Lord will be greater than the former—and his dwelling place will know the gift of peace.

This dwelling place where the glory of God is greater than any former dwelling place is the body of the person of Jesus. He is thought to be a prophet like of old, or like John the Baptist. And Peter calls him the Messiah of God—the hope of those who have gone before them waiting on the promise of God. But Jesus tells them that he is the Son of Man, the judge of the nations, the glory of God hidden/revealed in the Crucified one. And he is peace—God's peace upon the world. Do we know our God in Jesus like this?

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Voters told: Don't take barangay polls lightly

By Beverly T. Natividad

VOTERS SHOULD NOT TAKE the barangay elections lightly and should give them the same attention they give to the national elections, according to a voters' organization.

Ang Kapatiran Party (AKP) yesterday called on all Filipinos to actively participate in the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections to prevent this basic political unit from being invaded and controlled by traditional politicians.

"We have to remove first the control of traditional politicians over barangays before we can start reversing the vicious cycle of graft and corruption to eventually solve the problem of poverty in our country," said the AKP.

Good governance

According to AKP president Renato H. Peronilla, good governance in fact starts at the barangay level.

But he said most voters nowadays do not have enough knowledge of how the barangay government works for them, and so have little or no participation in the election of barangay officials.

"The barangay is the smallest political unit and our impression of it is mostly that they are the barangay tanod [watchmen] in our areas. We don't know what to expect, what to demand of it," said Peronilla.

He warned that a majority of

barangays have fallen under the control of traditional politicians who are out to promote their own personal interests.

The Article VI Section 38 of the Omnibus Election Code, he said, provides that no political party, organization or group should intervene in the nomination and election of any barangay candidate.

While the law strives to keep barangay elections non-partisan, said Peronilla, the public's lack of knowledge and participation at this level makes the barangays easier to manipulate, particularly during national elections.

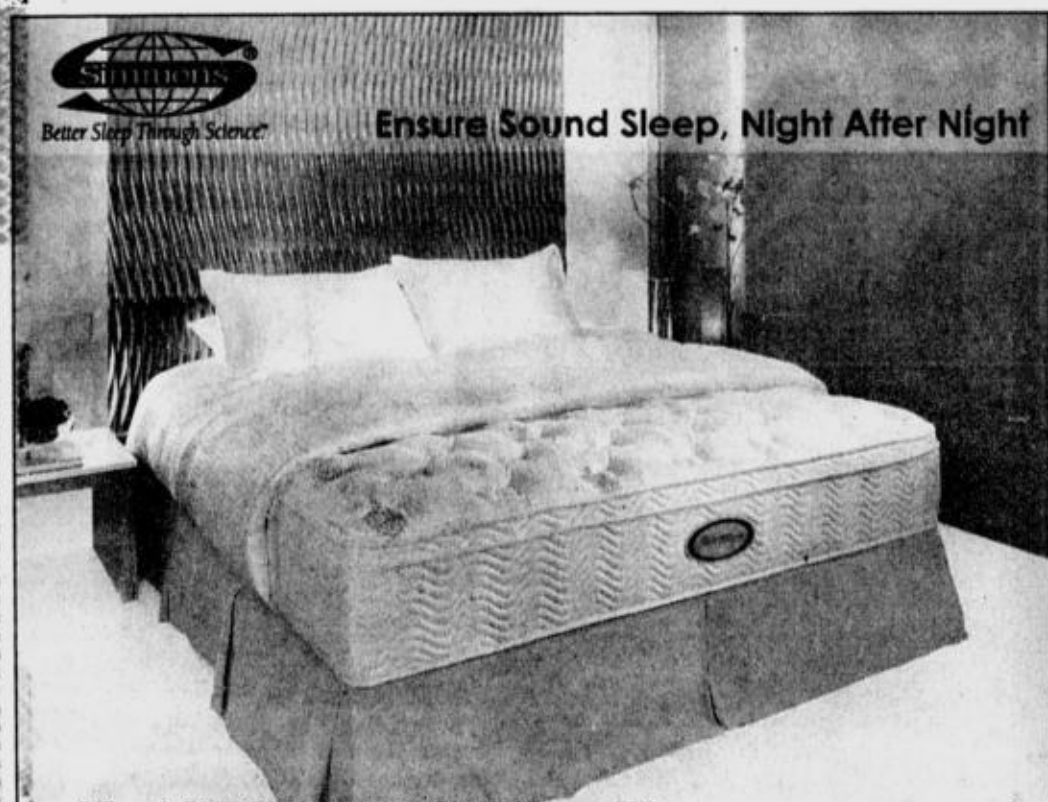
Sizable funding

Peronilla said that very few people know that barangays also receive sizable funding from the national government. In 2004, barangays received some P28 billion from the internal revenue allotment (IRA), he said.

On top of this, barangays also get 25 percent of real property taxes, 35 percent of natural wealth, and 50 percent of the community tax (cedula).

On Oct. 29, one barangay head and seven kagawad (councilmen) will be elected for each barangay, one chair and seven councilmen for each SK. There are 41,994 barangays in the country, each of them with an SK.

The barangay and SK elections were supposed to have been held in 2005 but were postponed for this year.



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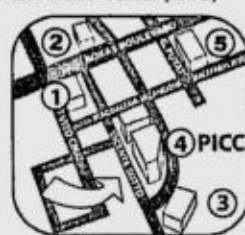


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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Region 6, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified grains handling services contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VI for Calendar Year 2008.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (in bag of 50 kg)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Php)	BIDDING FEE (Php)
1	Aklan	100,000	378,000.00	500.00
2	Antique	200,000	756,000.00	1,200.00
3	Capiz	300,000	1,134,000.00	1,800.00
4	Iloilo & Guimaras	900,000	3,402,000.00	5,500.00
5	Negros Occidental	1,000,000	3,780,000.00	6,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under proposed) available for the prosecution of the project. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 1-12, 2007 - 8 am to 4 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 19, 2007 - 9:30 AM
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	October 25, 2007 - 9:30 AM

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
BAC Chairperson

CyberEd deal tainted, too, teachers claim

By Jerry E. Esplanada

LIKE THE \$329-MILLION NATIONAL Broadband Network (NBN) deal, the \$575 million (P26.4-billion) Cyber Education Project (CEP or CyberEd) of the Department of Education is mired in controversy, according to the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT).

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong militant organization, said the CEP was another anomalous deal involving the administration.

Tinio said that even before the project was ordered suspended by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the DepEd had "already named (the private firm) Mabuhay Satellite Corporation as the provider of satellite services for the project even though the supply contract had yet to be awarded."

"Representatives of MSC [Mabuhay] were also frequent guests at the DepEd central office (in Pasig City)," Tinio said.

MSC, an affiliate of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., operates "Agila 2," the country's only satellite facility.

'Tied loan'

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus denied Tinio's allegations.

He said the DepEd was "absolutely in no position to commit to anything like supply and contract terms as China will be the one to decide on the subcontracts if and when a main supply contract and loan are finally executed with the Philippines."

That, Lapus said, was because the funding from China was a "tied loan."

Some DepEd employees took up the cudgels for Lapus, noting that the secretary was "not the point man during the negotiations with China" and "it was (Trade Secretary Peter) Favila who signed the CEP memorandum of agreement."

In its statement, ACT also challenged Lapus to "drop the CyberEd project and address the basic needs of the public school system instead."

"We advise Secretary Lapus to take his badly misplaced enthusiasm and zeal for the CEP and devote them instead to lobbying Congress for higher salaries for teachers, eliminating teacher, classroom and textbook shortages, abolishing fees in the public schools and giving subsidies to poor schoolchildren who are most at risk of dropping out, and so on," ACT said.

The CEP aims to link DepEd headquarters to its 204 field offices and more than 37,000 public schools nationwide.

Internet connectivity

It is a satellite-based distance learning program capable of broadcasting lessons from a central area to the farthest schools. Aside from interactive digital education, the project would have 12 video channels, wireless wide area and local networking, and Internet connectivity.

The DepEd had scheduled a demonstration of the CEP in three schools in November in anticipation of the project's roll-out in January 2008.

But with the suspension, Lapus said he expected a delay of at least six months.

Although disheartened by the suspension, Lapus said the DepEd would continue to train school teachers and administrators in the use of IT [information technology] to reach out to students in the remotest areas of the country.

He said the nation would eventually embrace CyberEd, as "we live in a world where information reigns ... We should have done this a long time ago. We just have to wait out this negative environment."

As for the teachers' claim the department has neglected the "basic needs of education," Lapus said: "In fact, we have increased the DepEd budget to unprecedented levels—from P112 billion in 2006 and P137 billion this year to P146 billion in 2008. Also unmatched are the investment levels in school buildings, teacher items, furniture, textbooks, alternative education, a feeding program, teacher training and benefits, among other things," he said.

Forty Winks

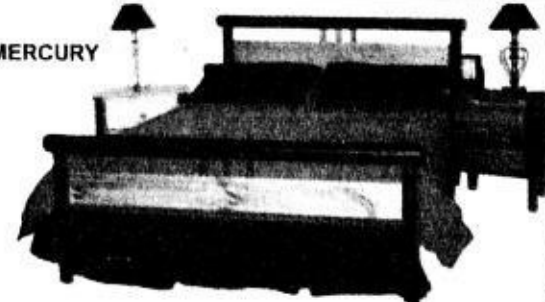
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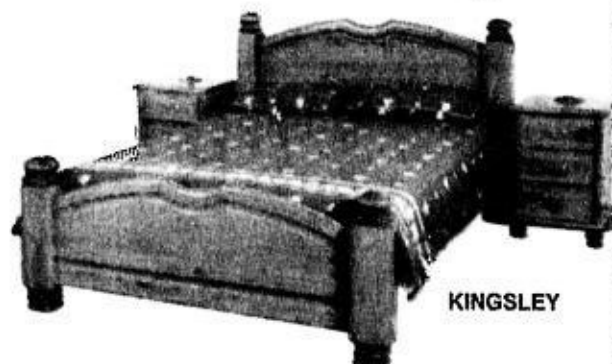
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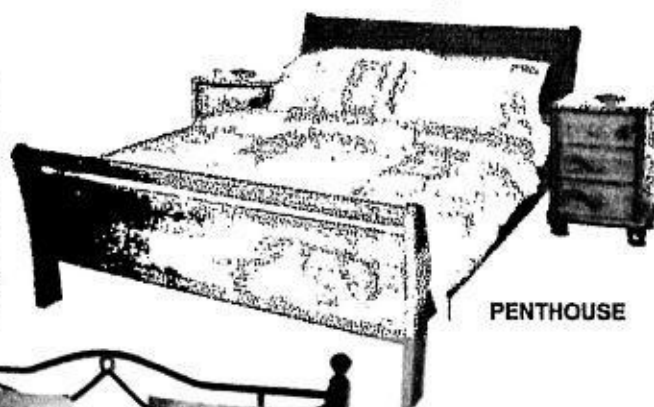
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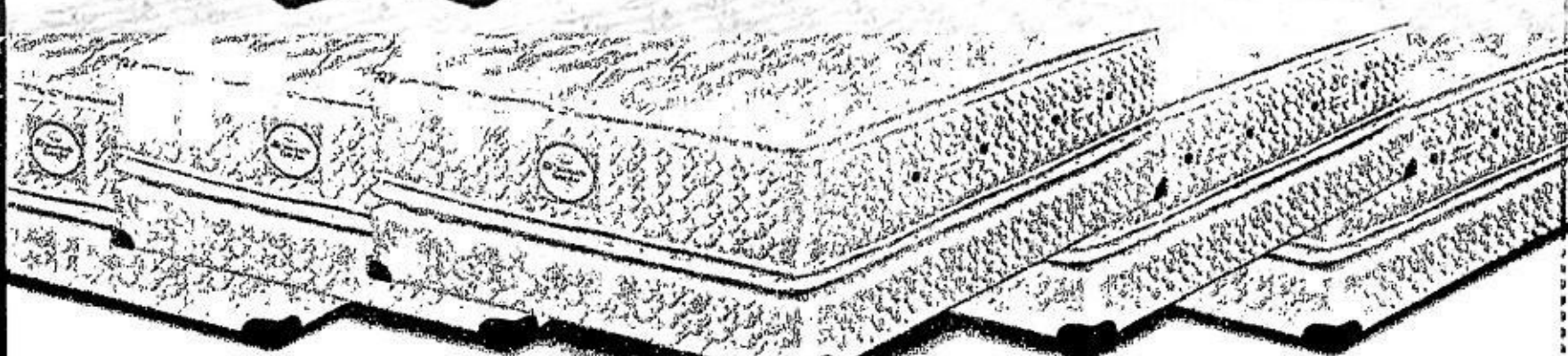
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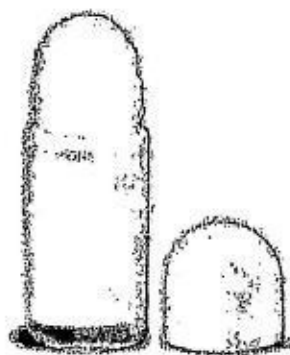


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ZTE asks high court to lift TRO Roxas calls deal 'overpriced ...

By Leila B. Salaverria

EVEN AS INTRIGUES CONTINUE TO hound the \$329-million national broadband network deal it has with the Philippines, the Chinese firm ZTE Corp. has asked the Supreme Court to lift the temporary restraining order (TRO) it issued against the agreement's implementation.

In a motion filed Wednesday, ZTE said Iloilo Vice Governor Rolex Suplico failed to prove his allegation that the country would be at a disadvantage if the NBN deal pushed through, and to show the injury that he would endure if no TRO was handed down.

In fact, the Chinese firm said, it was the one which was suffering as a result of the restraining order because of the more than \$2.9 million in expenses it has incurred for the agreement and the besmirching of its reputation through the media that has led to a drop in the value of its shares.

ZTE is listed on the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Stock exchanges.

Should the high court refuse to lift the TRO, ZTE said Suplico should be made to post a

bond not lower than the \$2,939,600 million it has spent to cover any damage it would incur.

China, meanwhile, said yesterday a decision by the Philippines to suspend the project would not affect bilateral trade ties.

"The Chinese government respects the Philippine side's decision and believes such a move will not affect bilateral trade relations," Commerce Ministry spokesperson Wang Xinpei said.

Suplico's petition was the basis of the TRO the high court issued against the NBN deal on Sept. 11.

The vice governor sought a TRO to nullify the deal because it was allegedly entered into through "rigged selection proceedings."

He also claimed that the deal violated the procurement law and the build-operate-transfer law that require public bidding, and the Telecoms Policy Act that requires the government to privatize telecommunications facilities.

Amsterdam Holdings, Inc., which lost its bid for the NBN deal, has also filed a petition to get documents related to the project and to temporarily stop its implementation.

With a report from AFP

From page A1

na's ZTE Corp.

The government is currently spending P250 million yearly for mobile phones, P1.1 billion for landline service, P158 million for cable subscription, P132 million for cable, satellite and radio fees, and P176 million for postage.

Communications Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso III said the interconnection of all government offices through a single backbone could yield at least P1.8 billion in savings a year.

The amount would go up to P2.2 billion if communication expenses of government-owned and -controlled corporations were included, Formoso said.

But Roxas doubted this could be achieved considering that government agencies would still have to rely heavily on facilities provided by the private sector.

Discounts from private providers

Roxas asked why the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) did not first look at consolidating landline services by seeking discounts from private providers as a bulk user.

Landline subscription accounts form a big chunk of the government telecoms bill.

"Even if we negotiate a lower price, the existing landline subscription that we have will not be able to achieve the total connectivity that we want," Formoso said.

The NBN project seeks to interconnect national government agencies and local government units through a high-capacity telecommunication network.

Roxas said negotiating for discounts was more practical than throwing P15 billion into an overpriced system that was bound to lose money.

Appalled at findings

Skepticism over the Arroyo administration's decision to pursue the NBN project further heightened yesterday after economists from the University of the Philippines rebutted the National Economic and Development Authority's justification for the project.

"The crucial question to ask is, does the nation really need this? And we were appalled of course by what we found," said Raul V. Fabella, a former dean of the UP School of Economics (UPSE).

Fabella was sharing the findings of the paper on the NBN project titled "Lacking a backbone: The controversy over the National Broadband Network and Cyber-education projects," which he wrote with the current UPSE dean, Emmanuel de Dios.

Fabella criticized the Neda board then headed by Romulo Neri, who defended the NBN project despite its flaws. The original plan was to build the network through a build-operate-transfer scheme. The NBN is now envisioned to be put up with a loan from China.

Fabella said a government-owned and -operated broadband backbone would not make "economic sense" because there were existing and underutilized backbones.

He said the NBN deal would be a reversal of the government policy to wean itself away from the telecom business and from fiascoes such as the "Telepono sa Barangay" and the French protocol.

Fabella noted that the BOT scheme would give the government a zero-cost option in the NBN project.

"Government-owned and -operated broadband backbones do not make economic sense and/or are very likely to end up as very costly. The ZTE contract is precisely that," he said.

At the Senate hearing on Wednesday, Neri contended that he endorsed the NBN concept because he wanted to reduce the cost of cell phone and Internet services in the country since the big players lacked viable competition.

Does not make sense

But Fabella said that adding another player to the broadband business would lead to higher costs because a higher utilization rate of existing capacity would lead to lower costs.

"The more you use it, the less the cost, the lower the price. The idea of a public sector backbone reducing price does not make any sense because it will clearly take away (de-

mand) from existing backbones. Market intervention makes sense only in market failure," Fabella said.

He also refuted Neri's justification for pursuing the NBN project because of the high profits of telecommunication providers and the high rate of return promised by the project.

Fabella said that even if a company earned P40 billion in profit, it was not doing its job if its investment reached P3 trillion.

"You're gonna be fired, right? The profitability of telcos is more interesting than the absolute numbers mentioned (on Wednesday)," he said.

Best-case scenario

Fabella said he was also "puzzled" why Neri would cite the 29.6 economic rate of return of the NBN (nearly twice the 15-percent hurdle rate of Neda) because most of the failed government projects had even rosier profit projections.

"If you are going to glue your attention on the best-case scenario, that means everything goes swimmingly well, then you can have a high rate of return."

"But it's never the best-case scenario that is going to rule the day. There are going to be snags," Fabella said. "We know that in the previous projects that were given a high grade by Neda, nothing happened."

Asked if they had any dealings with interested parties in the NBN deal such as a losing bidder or an American nongovernment organization, Fabella and De Dios said they were hired to do a separate study for PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) for P1 million.

'Jukebox economists'

But Fabella brushed aside these insinuations as normal in their line of work, saying that they have been labeled "jukebox economists" and "running dogs of the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund)."

"If there is anybody who paid for this study it is the Filipino people. I am of the University of the Philippines. [The] Filipino people support the University of the Philippines," he said.

ERRATUM

In the publication of the Supreme Court A.M. No. 07-9-12-SC, THE RULE ON THE WRIT OF AMPARO which came out on Sept. 26, 2007 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, above the name of Justice PRESBITERO J. VELASCO JR. should have ON LEAVE instead of his signature.

The whole page advertisement should not also have included the news item regarding the Supreme Court decision.

Our apologies.

Red-faced Miriam apologizes to China

From page A1

the allegedly overpriced National Broadband Network (NBN) project that the Philippine government signed with a Chinese company.

"I will write a formal letter of apology to the Chinese ambassador," Santiago, head of the Senate foreign relations committee and a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters.

Santiago, famous for her mercurial temper, berated China in Wednesday's nationally televised hearing on the \$329-million NBN project that was awarded to China's Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment (ZTE) Corp. amid allegations of bribery and overpricing.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, whose company lost the NBN contract, testified that they were offered bribes by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to clear ZTE for the contract, which has since been suspended.

Abalos denied the allegations but admitted that ZTE officials were his "golfing buddies" and had paid for his trips to China.

"China invented civilization in the East, but as well it invented corruption for all of human civilization," Santiago said during the hearing.

She also admonished witnesses at the hearing for "just fighting over your kickbacks."

Embassy protest

The remarks raised a howl of protest from the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese-Filipino community in the country.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II called for sobriety amid the wave of China-bashing triggered by the scandal.

"Such kind of comments [are] neither fair nor correct," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement.

"We believe that the Philippine government and the people of the Philippines will not agree to that. It is known to all that anti-corruption is a common task faced by all the countries of the world. Corruption exists not only in China, nor was it created by China," the embassy said.

"The Chinese government has all along devoted itself to the building of an honest and clean government and combat against all forms of corruption," the statement said.

"In recent years, the Chinese government has adopted even tougher measures in combat against corruption and achieved prominent results. [We] think people of insight can all see it."

According to an embassy spokesperson, Santiago sent a letter yesterday "to apologize to the Chinese ambassador, the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people."

Reached by the INQUIRER on the phone last night, the embassy spokesperson said

Ambassador Li Jinjun "expressed his appreciation and hopes to make a joint effort with Senator Santiago and also people from the various circles of Philippine society for the further enhancement of Chinese-Philippine friendship and mutual beneficial cooperation."

Apology demand

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI) demanded an apology in behalf of ethnic Chinese, not just in the country but around the world.

"While her [Santiago's] outburst may have been made in the heat of emotion during the ZTE-NBN probe, the general and sweeping racial slur is directed against all Chinese and ethnic Chinese around the world," the FFCCCI said in a statement.

The federation has more than 50,000 members in 170 chapters around the country.

"I will never denigrate the Chinese because I am married to one," Santiago said. "My husband is a Yap, his mother was Chinese."

She said: "I've always been a great admirer of Chinese civilization. I made a trip to China when I was not a public official to see their historical monuments and imbibe their culture."

In explaining her outburst, Santiago said "we were talking about a Chinese contract. My point was if you are a public official and there's a pending government project with you, to socialize with any of the parties of the contract is very suspicious."

But Roxas urged the public to take a more objective look at the Chinese projects rather than see them all in a bad light like ZTE.

Bidding flaws

"The problem is not China. The problem is that Philippine officials, every time they enter into a deal with China, they use that as an excuse to bypass the regular procurement laws which require bidding. That's the problem, it's not our transactions with China," Roxas said.

The reason the government has been having trouble with its China projects is because the administration failed to follow the proper bidding procedures, Roxas said.

"All of the transactions with China that were problematic, the cause of the problem is, it didn't go through bidding. The money doesn't enter the country, and the lender, which is China Exim Bank, gets to choose the contractor. We will pay for that. So it seems to me that we ought to have a say on how the money is spent. It's as simple as that," he said.

"I am confident that [our] 33 years of cultural and historic ties with China are strong enough to withstand the ZTE controversy," the senator said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, AP and Inquirer.net*

STATEMENT OF INDIGNATION

The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc., the leading association of Chinese-Filipinos in the country, expresses its indignation over remarks made by Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago during Wednesday's Senate investigation on the National Broadband Network.

We were taken aback by the irresponsible and insensitive statements by Sen. Santiago against the Chinese, especially in view of the following:

- The ZTE-NBN deal is still under investigation. No civil or criminal charges have been filed and the alleged culpability of involved parties has yet to be established.
- Alleged irregularities in the "isolated" NBN-ZTE transaction cannot be the basis of the unwarranted and regrettable condemnation by Sen. Santiago that the Chinese people invented corruption.
- This unfortunate utterance is all the more deplorable since Sen. Santiago is not only a Senator of the Republic, but more so, is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- While her outburst may have been made in the heat of emotion during the ZTE-NBN probe, the general and sweeping racial slur is directed against all Chinese and ethnic Chinese around the world.
- In the interest of fair play, we at the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry - in behalf of all fellow Chinese-Filipinos - demand an immediate and unqualified apology from Senator Santiago.



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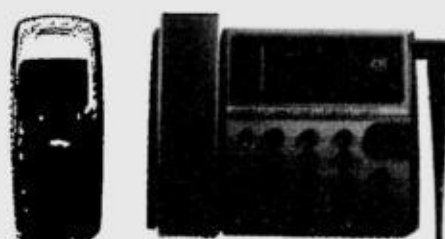
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Only treason not basis for impeach rap vs Abalos

From page A1

in the House by virtue of his position. "But I'm confident that it would ultimately be conscience that would prevail in each and every member of Congress," he said.

Abalos made the appeal while Suplico was filing the impeachment complaint in the office of the House secretary general shortly after noon.

Final ingredient

Suplico said the impeachment complaint at last had its final ingredient after Romulo Neri exploded his bombshell in the Senate on Wednesday.

"Luto na (It's done)," Suplico said. "In all the meetings of government officials involving ZTE, he [Abalos] was there. From golf courses in China to hotels in Manila I believe we have an open-and-shut case against Chairman Abalos," Suplico said.

The impeachment complaint came a day after Neri told a Senate inquiry that Abalos had offered him a P200-million bribe in exchange for endorsing the proposal of China's ZTE Corp. to undertake the NBN project.

Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) when the NBN project and the ZTE contract were approved. Neda evaluates proposed government projects.

Testifying at the same hearing on Wednesday, Abalos claimed that Neri was lying under oath.

Four grounds

Suplico cited four grounds—bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and graft and corruption—in filing the complaint against Abalos.

"We have two sets of strong evidence against Chairman Abalos. One, the testimonial evidence of Jose de Venecia III and Secretary Neri. Two, the series of unfortunate events involving Chairman Abalos," Suplico told reporters.

Suplico, a former deputy minority leader, was accompanied to the office of the House secretary general by two endorsers from the House minority—Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona II.

Zamboanga City Rep. Maria Isabelle

Climaco, a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the majority coalition in the House, was the first to endorse the complaint against Abalos.

"During the session (on Wednesday), we were affected by the events that happened in the Senate. We owe it to ourselves to cleanse the Comelec," Climaco told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview after she faxed her endorsement from Zamboanga City.

Numbers game

The chair and the commissioners of the Comelec, a constitutional body, cannot be fired by the President. They may be removed from office only through impeachment.

A vote of at least one-third (80 out of 239) of all the members of the House is required to affirm an impeachment complaint.

If that happens, the next step is a trial in the Senate, which shall act as the impeachment court.

Abalos acknowledged that the fate of the impeachment complaint rested on whether it could gather sufficient numbers.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said, the revelations of the younger De Venecia, coupled with the testimony of Neri, were "very serious" and might have provided enough grounds to impeach Abalos.

But he assured Abalos that the Speaker would remain neutral on the issue.

Close friend

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, De Venecia said he "pitied" the Comelec chair considering that the scandal was triggered by the revelations of his own son.

The Speaker described Abalos as a close friend more than a political ally.

Abalos was a key figure in the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, De Venecia's party, before he was appointed to the Comelec.

Abalos said his friendship with the Speaker remained despite the controversy. "You can't quantify the damage (suffered) by a person in terms of money," he said of the scandal's impact on him.

Retiring in February

Time may be on Abalos' side.

The House has a tight schedule in the coming weeks and may not have



LOOKS FAMILIAR: Militants wear masks bearing the images of President Arroyo, Mike Arroyo, Romulo Neri, Leandro Mendoza and Benjamin Abalos, the powerhouse cast in the NBN scandal, during a rally in front of the Senate building in Pasay City.

enough time to tackle the impeachment complaint before Abalos retires in February 2008, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said.

Zamora, the House minority leader, said aside from impeachment, lawmakers were studying other options, including filing criminal charges against Abalos.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, a member of the "pro-Arroyo only" bloc in the House, assured Abalos at the budget hearing that he would not support the impeachment complaint.

He noted that Abalos was due to retire in February, anyway.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol predicted the defeat of any impeachment case against Abalos despite Neri's explosive testimony.

Faster than a speeding bullet

"Impeachment is quasi-judicial and quasi-political. It is a matter of numbers," he said.

"I think (Abalos) will be able to squelch the complaint because (the complainants) will have a hard time obtaining the requisite number," Apostol said.

But Casiño said impeach-

ing Abalos "can be faster than a speeding bullet. It really depends on political will."

"I think congressmen will be crossing party lines on this issue," he said.

In the past two years, allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House quashed two impeachment complaints against her over allegations of corruption and vote-rigging in the 2004 elections.

Guingona expressed optimism that his group would have the numbers this time.

"We have received word from the administration congressmen that they are willing to join us in this crusade," he said.

Climaco said she was not alone in the majority in supporting the impeachment move against Abalos.

"This is one thing the members of the majority and even the minority can support," she said.

Asked if her endorsement had the imprimatur of the House leadership, Climaco said: "Zamboanga City has generally been opposition (and) our party's coalition with the administration has been a critical (collaboration)."

"I consulted my constituents in Zam-

boanga City, the lay leaders.... (and they all agreed) it's really right (to bring justice to the Comelec)," Climaco said.

Climaco said her family had had a number of negative experiences with the Comelec.

9 copies

Before the complaint was filed, Suplico and "volunteer lawyers" Reynold Munsayac and John Rodolfo briefed Casiño and Guingona in the office of Zamora.

They were joined by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza and Bayan Muna's third nominee in the May elections, lawyer Neri Colmenares.

Suplico submitted at least nine copies of the complaint and annexes to the office of the secretary general.

The Supreme Court has suspended the project, which seeks to link national agencies with local government units through a high-capacity telecommunications network.

Faced with questions over the government's allegedly corrupt practices, President Arroyo also put it on hold.

ZTE has denied any irregularities. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Man in eye of storm calm morning after

From page A1

committee less than 12 hours after answering allegations that he had offered bribes in the course of brokering the \$329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

He described the Senate session hall on Wednesday as a "lion's den," but said he did not regret facing his accusers and some purportedly biased senators.

"I knew what I was walking into ... but at least I was given a chance to explain," he said.

Forty winks

Abalos said the stressful experience did not deprive him of a good night's sleep before the budget hearing.

"Usually I'm snoring even without reaching my bed," he said in Filipino. "That's how I take [things], especially when I know that my conscience is clear. I'm not bothered at all."

It apparently helped that Lagman

laid down the ground rules before Abalos was called upon to defend the Comelec budget. It helped, too, that minority lawmakers were not around to raise the NBN deal.

"He's here not to defend himself personally because he did that already [on Wednesday]," Lagman told the members of the appropriations committee. "He's here to defend the budget of the Comelec, so ... we will limit questions [to those] related to the budget."

At the impromptu press conference after the hearing, Abalos said he had expected the antagonism of a number of senators.

Still, he said, he defied the advice of his lawyer and friends not to make an appearance: "I told them that I had to face everybody because I had a clear conscience."

If there were any regrets, it was that certain senators had made a "prejudgment" way before they had heard his side, he said.

"They think he's god-sent," Abalos said of Romulo Neri, the former socioeconomic planning secretary who had accused Abalos of offering him P200 million in exchange for supporting the NBN deal.

Truth, principles

At the Comelec, Abalos' colleagues expressed support for him.

But Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said that while the man deserved the poll body's support, "truth and principles should be the paramount concern."

Sarmiento said he and the other commissioners were hoping that the truth would come out soon for the good of the public.

He said the Comelec understood the seriousness of the allegations against Abalos and the latter's denials—all



ABALOS: My conscience is clear.

INQUIRER PHOTO

made under oath.

In a separate interview, Commissioner Romeo Brawner said the poll body was "one big family," and that its officers would continue to stand by Abalos.

Brawner said he personally believed in Abalos' innocence in the charges, which he described as "a product of evil motives."

"Since he [Abalos] is my colleague and boss in the Comelec, you can't blame me for entertaining the belief that all these are drummed-up charges. Honestly, I feel he is not guilty," Brawner told the INQUIRER.

He said he hoped that Abalos would be able to hurdle the controversy "with flying colors."

Brawner also said that while the Comelec as an institution was being dragged into the controversy because of Abalos' alleged involvement, the poll body's integrity remained intact.

He dismissed the controversy as part of dirty politics, saying "anybody can be blamed for anything" nowadays. With a report from Beverly T. Natividad

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Troublesome Japanese to be deported

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BUREAU OF Immigration is set to deport a Japanese national who allegedly caused trouble in his neighborhood in Davao for the past three years.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Shin Komatsu, 55, is detained at the BI jail in Bicutan, Taguig City, pending deportation proceedings.

Libanan said Komatsu was arrested last Aug. 29 at his house in Bansalan, Davao Del Sur by operatives of the bureau's Migration Compliance and Monitoring Group following complaints from his neighbors who accused him of being "a troublesome drunkard."

"There is no doubt that he had become a public charge and his continued presence in the country is causing trouble and giving unnecessary burden to residents in his neighborhood," Libanan said in a statement.

Komatsu's neighbors earlier submitted to the bureau a petition calling for the deportation of the Japanese national "for being an undesirable alien."

According to the petition, Komatsu has been overstaying in the country for the past three years.

Libanan said Komatsu had been the object of com-

plaints filed with the local police, including arson charges in July 2005 when he allegedly burned a house along Villa Doneza Street.

The Japanese national again ran amuck last Aug. 2 at the house of his landlord after joining a drinking session.

Immigration records showed that Komatsu arrived in the country in July 2004 and

married a Filipina, Japan, who is working in "The Japanese

national, however, could not produce his passport during his arrest, making him an undocumented alien," Libanan said.

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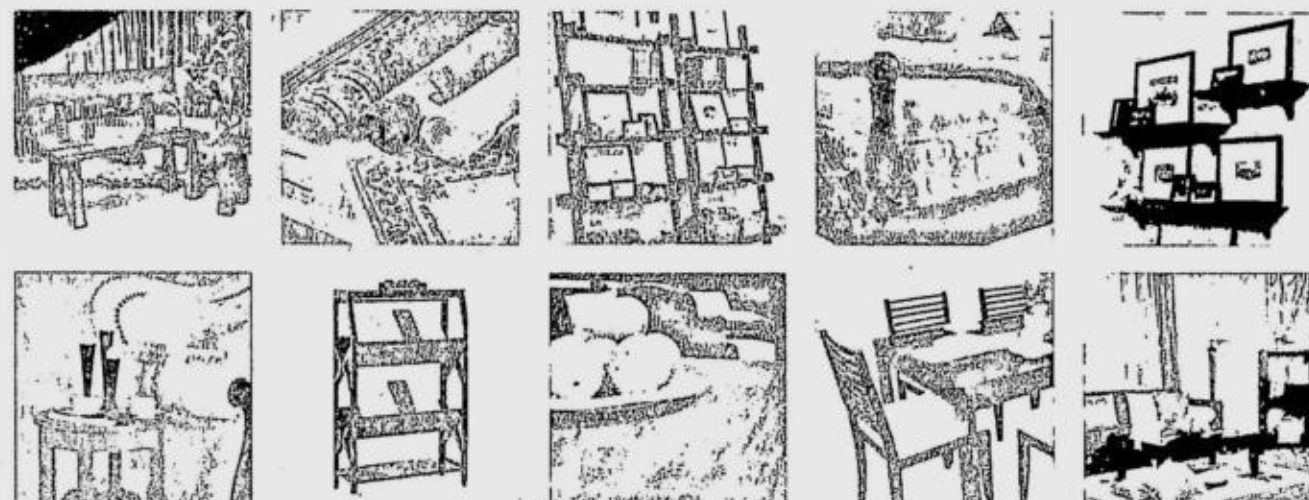
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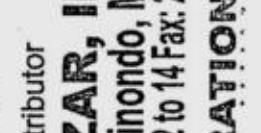
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Clinton: Everybody is afraid of Gloria

From page A1

quoted Clinton telling her before she went up the stage to participate in one of the sessions of the forum held at the Sheraton hotel here.

Clinton moderated the discussions on poverty alleviation and religious tensions.

Ms Arroyo was the only woman on the six-member panel that included South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US Vice President Al Gore, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Wal-Mart chief executive officer H. Lee Scott and World Bank president Robert Zoelick.

Tutu, a Nobel peace laureate, talked about the plight of Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose continued house arrest has sparked a new round of protests against the military junta in her country. (Story on this page.)

Tutu's pin-up girl

Tutu said he admired Suu Kyi, calling her his "pin-up" girl for her quiet leadership qualities.

"That may be the reason why they are scared of her," Clinton replied in reference to Aung San Suu Kyi. He then said: "Everybody in the Philippines is scared of Gloria."

"Not too long ago, people were writing her off, that she was in terrible trouble. That the Philippines was in terrible trouble," Clinton said in introducing Ms Arroyo, whom he described as a former classmate at Georgetown University and a friend of many years.

"But she took a lot of tough economic positions and the economy had a complete turnaround and she's on the way up now. She's in good shape," he said.

Clinton then asked how Ms Arroyo was promoting reconciliation given the "religious differences" in the country, especially in Mindanao.

Paradigm for peace

Ms Arroyo told Clinton that her administration had a "paradigm for peace" and this involved confidence-building measures through interfaith dialogue and cultural awareness.

Ms Arroyo said the peace initiative was being promoted by the country's Roman Catholic bishops and Muslim religious leaders called ulama and that this was also part of the government's Medium Term Development Plan.

The government is also pushing basic in-



MARVELOUS: Former US President Bill Clinton marvels at the way President Arroyo was able to turn the economy around when "people were writing her off not too long ago" at the Clinton Global Initiative.

MALACANANG PHOTO

frastructure and economic development, Ms Arroyo said, citing World Bank projects in Mindanao that not only involve building bridges, roads and schools but also trust between communities.

She also told Clinton that her administration hoped to firm up a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front because this would bring in more development projects to Mindanao.

"We find that the investment in people is paying off because peace doesn't come from the barrel of a gun, that's what we found. We have to give a person human dignity, food on the table, and we have to invest in people," Ms Arroyo said.

Geothermal power

Clinton asked Ms Arroyo about the Philippines' use of geothermal plants to generate electricity.

He said the Philippines was regarded as No. 1 in the world in generating electricity from geothermal power, and that this accounted for 24 percent of total electricity in the country.

"We are endowed with geothermal power and it fits very well in our Green Philippines

program," Ms Arroyo replied. "We want to use clean energy, we want to have energy independence, and geothermal power gives us clean energy and independence."

She said that before her trip to New York, she went to Leyte to attend the turnover to the government of a geothermal power project that a private company undertook under a build-operate-transfer scheme.

Economic zones

Ms Arroyo said her administration was encouraging the setting up of economic zones near geothermal power sites.

"Because not only can geothermal fields give us power but they give us jobs because local governments earn royalties from geothermal power and by law they can only use it, most of it, for electricity," she explained.

This meant that local government would be subsidizing the electric bills of their constituents. This then will prod power-intensive firms to set shop in these economic zones, the President said.

Her explanation elicited a grin from Clinton who told the audience: "You can really clap for that. That's good."



THE BIG PICTURE: President Arroyo is one of six panelists at the Clinton Global Initiative 2005. She's joined by (from right) ex-US Vice President Al Gore, Archbishop Robert Zoellick and H. Lee Scott, president/CEO of Wal-Mart. The world's most pressing problems.

GMA takes break; is entr

From page A1

day, Ms Arroyo took a break from her packed schedule to attend the matinee show at the Broadhurst Theatre.

The President sat near the back of the packed theater and was accompanied by a group that included Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

After the show, when most of the audience had left, Ms Arroyo and her party went up the stage to congratulate Salonga and other members of the cast and pose for photographs.

"Congratulations. We are so proud of you," Ms Arroyo told Salonga and Filipino-Americans Adam Jacobs and Ali Ewoldt. Salonga played the role of Fantine, while Jacobs and Ewoldt played Marius and Eponine, respectively.

Entranced

Chatting with reporters, Ms Arroyo said she had seen "Les Misérables" countless times but she considered this particular show "special."

"We were entranced by your

performance," she told Salonga.

Saying that she had performed for the President on previous occasions, Salonga told the Chief Executive that she and the cast felt honored that Ms Arroyo came to watch the show.

"It was also fortunate that her seat was pretty far back so I didn't get too intimidated, except that I saw a row of neckties. Ah, they are in the back there somewhere," Salonga said, eliciting laughter.

"It was an honor for us... because you are the star," Ms Arroyo replied.

In an interview later with reporters, Salonga said she was glad that she and the cast were able to "provide some sort of respite, a bit of a break" for Ms Arroyo.

Rise above woes

This was after she was told that Ms Arroyo had left Manila on Tuesday with allegations of overpricing and bribery hounding her administration's National Broadband Network project with China and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo being dragged into the scandal.

"I really hope that whatever

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Clinton Global Initiative which ex-US President Bill Clinton (extreme left) launched in Malacanang with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, and CGI brings together a community of innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems.

MALACANANG PHOTO

anced by Lea in 'Les Miz'



COFFEE BREAK: President Arroyo meets with World War II veterans during coffee with the Filipino community leaders at the Waldorf Astoria where she's billeted.

MALACANANG PHOTO

problems she is having at home that she is able to rise above whatever is going on," Salonga said.

She expressed the hope that when Ms Arroyo returned to the Philippines, she would be a "little bit more refreshed and renewed

and be able to tackle whatever is going on at home."

"I mean every President we had since the beginning of time has to endure some kind of opposition of some sort and this is no exception," Salonga said.

GMA orders creation of seven more economic zones near geothermal sites

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN LINE WITH HER GOAL TO "DEVELOP" more economic zones, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the creation of seven more economic zones in places adjacent to geothermal-producing sites.

Ms Arroyo, in Executive Order No. 661 signed on Sept. 10 and released Wednesday, directed local government units to develop the zones in coordination with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

The areas are Tiwi in Albay; Makban, which borders mounts Makiling and Bana-haw in Laguna; Tongonan, which borders Ormoc and Kananga in Leyte; Palinpinon in Valencia, Negros Oriental; Bacman, which borders Bacon and Manito in Sorsogon and Albay, respectively; Mt. Apo on the border of Kidapawan in North Cotabato, and Murcia in Negros Occidental.

Ms Arroyo said "the government is adopting measures to give open access to private and publicly owned economic zones in sourcing their power with the end in view of lowering the power cost in the economic zones and to promote competitiveness."

She noted that the country had one of the highest industrial power rates in Southeast Asia, and that majority of the biggest power consumers were industrial locators in economic zones.

"There is a compelling need for a more reliable, economical, competitive and efficient power supply to provide quality electricity to power-sensitive industrial locators in the economic zones and to encourage future locators," Ms Arroyo said.

Tax duties on imports

To curb smuggling in the Subic Special Economic Zone, Ms Arroyo issued EO 660 on Sept. 13 that would impose taxes on imported goods and equipment of registered enterprises there in excess of their requirements.

The President noted that under existing law, registered businesses, enterprises and locators within Subic were exempt from national internal revenues and custom duties on their imports of raw materials, capital



GMA NEVER LEFT HOME. Filipinos in New York raise the same issues that hound President Arroyo back home. They picket in front of the Waldorf Astoria where Ms Arroyo is billeted until her departure on Friday.

INQUIRER.NET/LIRA D. FERNANDEZ

goods and equipment for their business operations.

"There is a need to ensure that raw materials ... are only those required for their business activities and operations," she said, stressing that the "government needs additional revenue to finance the country's economic and development programs and projects."

Ms Arroyo said that imported goods and equipment "in excess of the requirements of their registered business ... shall be deemed brought into or sold within the customs territory and, therefore, subject to the payment of taxes and custom duties in accordance with existing customs and tax laws."

She directed the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in coordination with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), to issue appropriate issuances or circulars to "clarify and/or simplify" the documentation, procedures, tax treatment and pay-

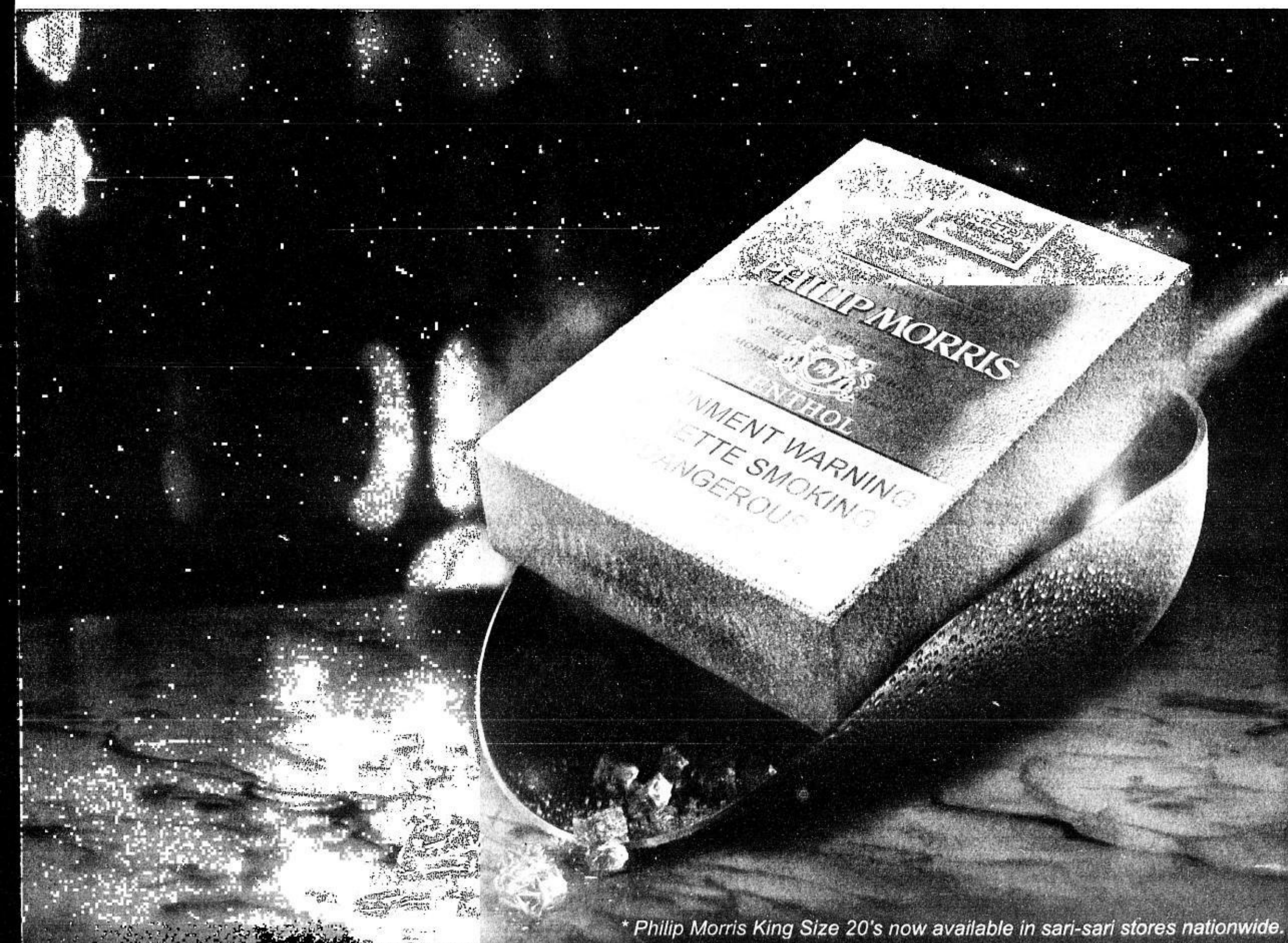
ment of taxes and duties of the excess importations."

Condemnation process

Amid the rampant smuggling of vehicles into Subic, the government, upon the order of the President, destroyed 18 smuggled cars in a nationally televised event on Aug. 16 that was described by Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales as a "condemnation process."

However, the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs and the SBMA spared from destruction other smuggled luxury vehicles such as a Corvette, Lamborghini, Porsches, Audis and Cadillacs they had earlier said they would destroy.

Some 100 officials and employees of the BOC are involved in the smuggling of cars and other items via the country's free ports, according to Antonio Villar Jr., chief of the newly created Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group.



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Smoking is dangerous to your health

Corrupt

IN OUR COLLECTIVE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CHED Chairman Romulo Neri's frustrated testimony last Wednesday, let us not lose sight of a truly significant gain: clear and credible testimony, by a Cabinet-level official, that Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos is corrupt.

"Sec, may 200 ka dito," Abalos allegedly told Neri while they were discussing the National Broadband Network and the ZTE arrangement during a golf game. Considering the magnitude of the project, Neri said he assumed Abalos was offering him a P200-million bribe.

Abalos took his time issuing a denial. First he qualified his accuser's statement: "I don't understand what 200 he is talking about." (This was a detail he kept bringing up during Wednesday's 11-hour hearing.) Then he raised a rhetorical question: "Why would I offer him a bribe?" (Another point he made more than once.) Then finally the denial: "He is lying as far as that is concerned."

But Neri, sometimes needlessly punctilious on other details, replied sweepingly: "I have a very clear recollection of that incident."

Neri's accusation is the second bribery charge levied against Abalos during the ongoing Senate joint committee hearings on the NBN project. Last week, businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III testified that Abalos offered him \$10 million to back out of the NBN project.

Abalos has denied De Venecia's charge, and in similar fashion. He attacked his accuser's credibility and then professed his innocence by raising the question of motive. Why, he wants to know, would he offer anyone a bribe?

Why? Because, if the information we glean from four days of sometimes riveting testimony is anything to go by, he was brokering for ZTE.

This is a point he has vigorously denied. Abalos has said repeatedly that he has no financial or other interest, either in ZTE's deal or in the NBN. And yet, to a reasonable observer, his actions since last year clearly draw a disturbing picture of a powerful official peddling make-or-break influence.

Let's get this clear. Abalos said last Wednesday he was close to certain officers of ZTE; it was a friendship he did not deny, he told the Senate. And yet only a couple of weeks ago, Abalos did precisely that: he denied his closeness to ZTE by telling reporters it was his daughter who was close to them.

Abalos said last Wednesday he became close to ZTE officers only early last year. It is hard to avoid the conclusion, however, that this friendship must have been, shall we say, expedited, because before the year was up, and according to Abalos' own testimony, businessmen like De Venecia were already seeking him out precisely for his perceived closeness to ZTE.

Abalos said last Wednesday he did not travel "several" times to China, but only four times during the period in question, and that only one of these four directly concerned ZTE. We find this hard to believe. Abalos is certainly wily, more slippery than an eel, but even if we grant him the benefit of the doubt, this much is clear: the Dec. 27, 2006 meeting in China with ZTE officials where De Venecia was present is already proof of illegal influence-peddling. That one meeting alone, which he said he took part in as a concession to De Venecia's persistence and as a favor to the businessman's father, Speaker Jose de Venecia, is already proof that Abalos acted as a broker—if not for ZTE, then for the Filipino businessman. Either way, that is impeachable conduct by the country's top election official.

Abalos said last Wednesday he was merely the target of a choreographed smear campaign. But it is his track record that taints him, not the latest accusations. He tried to turn the tables on Neri, suggesting that it was the low-profile, non-political former socioeconomic planning secretary who was in fact the deal's broker. But his accusation did not stick, because Neri does not have that kind of reputation.

On the other hand, the alleged bribery attempts, the nonetoo-subtle brokering for ZTE, the running to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to get a rival to "back off"—all these have the ring of truth, not only because they come from credible sources, but because Abalos has had his fingers caught in other cookie jars before.

Open and shut—that's the case against Abalos. Congress should impeach him.



Tenejeros River can easily be saved

LAST WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26, WE REPORTED the aborted boat tour by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza of the Marilao-Meycauayan-Otambuque river system, which has become world famous after it was listed as one of the 30 most polluted places in the world. I suggested that Atienza also try a tour of the Tenejeros-Tullahan River which is also one of the most polluted rivers in the world. I suggested it because it is relatively easier to nurse back to health.

The Tenejeros-Tullahan River runs through Malabon and Valenzuela, which used to be famous for their fishponds. It used to supply fresh sea water to the fishponds when its water was clean. Thousands of families earned a livelihood from it. A person needed but to get into it with a net, a spear, a trap or a hook and line, and he was sure to go home a few hours later with enough fish, shrimps, crabs or oysters for the family.

The riverbanks used to be lined with thick growths of mangrove where crabs clambered among the roots and kingfishers waited on the branches to dive down to catch fish in the water below. The river used to be a playground for children living near the river. Many a child learned how to swim and fish there. I grew up there, and my childhood chums and I spent many happy times there. Not anymore.

The river is now a cesspool. The fishponds are dead. No fish can survive in them. They have been covered with dirt and converted into subdivisions and memorial parks—or squatter colonies. Factories lining the river throw their effluents into the river and hordes of squatters on the riverbanks make it their open sewer. This is the water that floods the homes of Malabon and Valenzuela during high tides and heavy rains. The filling up of the fishponds and especially Dagatdagatan, a lake where the Bureau of Fisheries unsuccessfully tried to make *sabalos*, adult milkfish, spawn (the bangus that we buy in the markets are just baby milkfish), made the floods deeper and faster. Excess water used to run into the ponds and

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Dagatdagatan. With them filled up, the floodwaters have nowhere to go but to the streets and the homes.

The Tenejeros-Tullahan River can be revived. It is a relatively short river. It begins in Manila Bay and ends in Binuangan in Bulacan, still in Manila Bay. The rising and falling of the tides that occurs twice a day can cleanse it of the pollution—provided no new pollutants are thrown in. That means relocating the factories and squatters.

To begin with, there should be a law prohibiting factories and industrial and commercial establishments from locating near waterways. They will always try to throw their wastes into them, if they're near enough.

To prevent the regular flooding, the Japanese government has given the Philippines a loan to build dikes along the banks of the Tenejeros-Tullahan River. Properly used, the fund can, besides preventing flooding, accomplish five other major benefits: (1) prevent pollution of the river; (2) provide two more roads from Malabon to Bulacan; (3) increase the value of the lands along the river; (4) increase the tax revenues of the two cities; and (5) prevent unscrupulous people from stealing parts of the river.

Owners of lots beside the river steal parts of it by filling up the river alongside their lots, thus illegally expanding their properties and narrowing the waterway. To stop this, I propose that roads be built on top of the dikes, one on each bank of the river.

That way: (1) lot owners along the riverbanks can no longer steal parts of the river; (2) factories and squatters can no longer throw their wastes

into the river (they can be seen by passing motorists and pedestrians); (3) the market value of the lots along the river (now only unsightly backyards) will increase because they will now have street frontages; (4) with the increase in the value of these lots, the local governments will collect bigger real estate taxes, and with the setting up of commercial establishments along these new roads, business taxes will also increase; and (5) with the new roads running on the banks of the river, it would be easier and faster for Camanava folk to commute.

In addition, with the river water already clean, ferries can carry passengers and cargo from Bulacan, Pampanga and other points north down the Tenejeros-Tullahan River to Manila Bay and the towns along the way, easing the traffic load on the MacArthur Highway in Bulacan and the Coastal Road to Cavite. In the old days, big flat-bottomed boats called "cascos" were poled down this river with their loads of rice, sugar, salt, vinegar and nipa shingles from Bulacan to be sold in Malabon, Navotas and other towns along Manila Bay.

With the water clean, the river can once more be a center not only of transportation but also of leisure, entertainment and tourism such as boating, swimming and fishing. Also, people will again have a livelihood from the marine life of the river.

What are needed for this to happen? Only the will power and perseverance of the mayors and other officials of Malabon and Valenzuela, the cooperation of their citizens, and the help of the national and foreign governments.

TODAY'S JOKES: Only in the Philippines does the government immediately offer a convict a pardon and the convict sets the conditions for the pardon.

Paper and pen ousted Marcos. Envelope ousted Erap. Tape is being used to oust GMA. Only in the Philippines are presidents toppled by office supplies.

Anti-Chinese racism

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

for all of civilization."

Sure the Senate must not be used to enforce honor among thieves—and it was this that infuriated Santiago—and the NBN debate truly has elements of a "squabble over kickbacks," as she says, or a "battle among commissioners" in Sen. Joker Arroyo's words. And it can also be fairly said that the Chinese government's sweetheart deals with local predatory elites are part of its charm offensive that pushes "tied aid" one step forward; it ties the donee to the donor state, and the donor state to the local political lords. But this does not allow us to impute corruption as a national trait, indeed, as ingrained historically in the character of a people, and worse, to use the pejorative label "Intsik."

The insular Filipino must be reminded that the Middle Kingdom can very well claim to have the world's finest civilization, and—while racial discrimination exists all over the world, against foreigners, in general, and against Asians, in particular—it is only in Southeast Asia where a specific form of anti-Chinese bigotry persists. In other words, it is mainly in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines where we find the potent cocktail of an ethnic group that is economically well-placed but politically excluded.

To be fair to the Philippines, our record on this score is much better than our Asean neighbors'. Malaysia has racial quotas in school admissions and even faculty appointments, and yet has managed to stay below the radar screen that could have easily spotted a clear case of apartheid. In Jakarta, as recent as the May 1998 riots leading to the fall of President Suharto, there were genocidal attacks against the ethnic Chinese, committed by gangs of

men prowling freely while the police looked the other way. In contrast, the Philippines has elected as president no less than Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, a second-generation Chinese, and has long hailed as its national heroes Chinese mestizos like Jose Rizal.

There is a classic 1957 Supreme Court decision upholding the exclusion of all foreigners from the retail trade, when in fact the target was Chinese storekeepers. The Court adopted the nationalist credo that "alien control and dominance [endangers] the national interest." The alien "owes allegiance to the country of his birth... his stay here is for personal convenience... gain and profit." He does "not invest [his earnings] in industries that... increase [our] national wealth" but instead remits them to his family back home. But let us ask ourselves: Don't OFWs today do exactly the same thing, and aren't we all the better for it? Or is it just karma catching up with the narrow-minded Pinoy?

But the real peril of racial prejudice is this quote from the Court's decision. Citing all the "pernicious" trade practices, the Court concluded: The Chinese have "cheated the operation of the law of supply and demand." Whoa! Hold your horses! So finally we have met Adam Smith's nemesis, someone who can defy the law of supply and demand and, along the way, maybe even the law of gravity as well!

The Philippine Congress has wisely repealed the retail trade nationalization law and I hope that Filipinos have gotten over the racism of the 1950s. The Chinese-Filipino community has prospered even more—thanks to the retail nationalization law, they abandoned their *sari-sari* stores and invested in banks and manufacturing. Chinoy culture has thrived and, in my reckoning, has already mainstreamed.

We are stereotyped as illegal aliens in First World capitals, and we fight it. But we cannot fight invidious stereotyping if we ourselves engage in it. We must put an end to this bigotry once and for all.

Comments to passionforreason@mail.com

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BOT, BOO, BT, BLT, ROT, ROO, etc.

THE LETTERS ABOVE ARE NOT AN ALPHABET soup. They are variants of the generic BOT scheme authorized under RA 6957, the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, and RA 7718 which amends it. In the Senate hearings on the ZTE contract, BOT and BOO have been repeatedly mentioned.

BOT is a contractual arrangement whereby the project proponent undertakes the construction, including financing, of a given infrastructure facility, and the operation and maintenance thereof. In plain English, he builds and operates the facility which the government cannot do for lack of money.

How does the proponent get his money back? He is allowed to "charge facility users appropriate tolls, fees, rentals, and charges not exceeding those proposed in his bid," assuming he has submitted the lowest bid and most favorable terms, "based on the present value of his proposed tolls, fees, rentals and charges over a fixed term..."

But what is a BOO (Build-Own-Operate) contract? It is similar to a BOT, except that the proponent does not have to turn over the facility to the government at the end of a "fixed term which shall not exceed fifty (50) years." In other words, he continues to own and operate the facility. That is why such contractual arrangement must have the recommendation of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) of the National Economic and Development Authority and the approval of the President of the Philippines.

Are unsolicited proposals allowed? Yes, under the rationale that government officials do not have the monopoly of ideas for developing our infrastructures. So, the law not only allows but encourages them provided, "(1) that the projects involve a new concept or technology and/or are not part of the list of priority projects, (2) no direct government guarantee, subsidy or equity is required, and (3) the government agency or local government unit has invited by publication, for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation, comparative or competitive proposals, and no other proposal is received for a period of working days, and, that in the event another proponent submits a lower price proposal, the original proponent shall

COMMENTARY

Felicito C. Payumo

have the right to match that price within thirty (30) working days." Devoid of legalese, the requirements for unsolicited proposals are strict; competitive proposals are still required except that the original proponent has the right to match them.

That's what Jose de Venecia III has been stressing. His proposal requires no government loan or guarantee, nor does it ask for a take-or-pay provision. He competes with the rates of existing telcos. And it is he who must keep up with technology advances in telecommunications, which has one of the fastest obsolescence in the industry. If he fails, it is he who loses his shirt. Fair enough. Unlike the \$320-million ZTE-government project to be funded by a loan from the China Ex-Im Bank. Do we want another white elephant after we have just finished paying our last amortization for the moth-balled Bataan Nuclear Power Plant?

The bigger question is: Do we need another broadband that the DOTC says will provide seamless connectivity from the national government offices to our 45,000 barangays? Let us answer the following questions: How often do barangay officials need to talk directly to a department secretary or undersecretary? Never. To a bureau director? Seldom, if ever. They call or go to the provincial offices of the DPWH, DOH, DILG, etc., or course their requests through their mayors, congressmen or governors.

How about the need to connect to the 1,600 municipalities? Yes, but let us ask first what percent or how many of these cannot be reached at present through land lines or by mobile phones. We are not even given the information, yet the DOTC officials insist that they be provided seamless connectivity. My guess is that almost all municipal offices in the poblacion can now be reached by voice or text messages. And should there still be some remote munic-

ipal offices that are beyond reach, the government can require the telcos to blanket the areas with cell sites within a fixed timetable. In fact, the telcos do it without being told, when there is a need for it.

It has been announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo has suspended the implementation of the National Broadband Network project along with the Cyber Education Project. In case the latter gets revived, we should ask if there is no other delivery vehicle to transmit the lectures of the "expert" gurus on various fields to all public schools, including the remote rural areas, assuming this didactic approach is what our rural children need. Picture malnourished children, who can barely comprehend instructions from their teachers, huddled in front of TV monitors listening to expert lectures on science, math, physics, history, etc. How many classrooms, books, feeding programs and additional teachers can be funded by P23 billion?

If the Department of Education insists that our schoolchildren should imbibe their lessons from master teachers, how about burning their lectures in CDs? How much does a blank CD cost? P20. But if the government buys hundreds of thousands of them the cost could be halved.

Let us do some arithmetic: We now have 45,000 barangays, so we must have at least 45,000 barangay elementary schools. Add the high schools and elementary schools in the cities and poblaciones and we may have few thousands more, but let us assume that we have 100,000 schools to send CDs to. At P10 per CD, that's P12 million a year, assuming the DepEd sends out CDs once every month. Add a few more million pesos for delivery costs and honoraria for the lecturers, say, P20 million. Compare that with the P23-billion cost of the CyberEd project, excluding operating costs.

Ah, but the DepEd wants the lectures broadcast so that they can be viewed instantly. Then, why not use the Knowledge Channel? Or should a month's delay even be an issue? Would 1 plus 1 no longer be 2 after a month, or a year?

Felicito C. Payumo was the principal author of the BOT Law.

Big and small

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri's "200" revelation at the Senate on Wednesday did not surprise me, since rumors about the bribe had been circulating for days earlier. What did strike me was another part of his testimony, when he asked if he had been pressured by the Chinese negotiating the deal and he answered "no" and then went on to say they were rough. Asked to elaborate, he said they were smoking heavily, and, well, were just rough.

As an anthropologist, I think Neri's remarks should alert us to another angle to this whole mess, of how the Chinese look at us, and how this is communicated.

Neri is said to be fluent in spoken Chinese, and even has some reading and writing skills, which is quite impressive considering how complicated Chinese script is. But I wonder if he had some difficulties interpreting another kind of language, which matters just as much, and this is body language.

Last week, I wrote about the importance of having a foreign language requirement in colleges, but this broadband scandal convinces me we will need more courses around culture itself, especially inter-cultural communication, for people intending to go international, whether for business, foreign or diplomatic service, or quite simply, to work abroad.

Guanxi

Let's look at the broadband deal. I was surprised to hear Neri mention that the Chinese negotiators were smoking heavily while dealing with their Filipino counterparts. Yes, the Chinese are heavy smokers, and many are still unaware that passive smoking is almost as harmful as smoking itself. On the other hand, the Chinese are also extremely sensitive about rudeness and will refrain from smoking if told. After all, they were the ones trying to win favor. But it looks as if they have turned the tables around on us, and for good reason.

Being ethnic Chinese myself and having visited China many times, I've had to go through the most complicated rituals and protocols, all planned around notions of "xiao ren" (small people) and "da ren" (big people). "Big" and "small" here have nothing to do with physical size; rather it's about ranks and power relations. It's this "social size" that spells out who enters the room first, who introduces whom, who sits next to whom in a meal or even a group picture.

At a meal, whenever a new dish is served, you have to get some of it and put it on the plate of the person next to you, if he or she is someone of higher status. This more senior person will protest each time, but that is part of the ritual, too. If you take the protest literally and stop serving, you'll be seen as being rude. You have to keep going, not just with the food but with the tea, and if there are alcoholic drinks, to propose a toast from time to time.

The rituals are vital for acknowledging the social hierarchies and, even more importantly, building networks. By showing you know who the "bosses" are, you are able to enter the networks, never quite accepted as an insider but respected as someone who can navigate a Chinese social maze-way.

In Chinese (as well as Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean) business and politics, *guanxi*—relationships or, more accurately, "who you know"—is paramount, and this is expressed through the complicated protocols. If you have to deal with the Chinese, you have to be quick to read the hierarchies, and where you fit. If, for example, they send only the driver to pick you up at the airport, you know you have an uphill battle ahead and that you will have to put in more effort into your first meeting, from the way you dress to what's printed on your business card.

Neri's description of "rough" Chinese negotiators is revealing. The Chinese do not consider smoking to be rude; in fact, many still think it's part of etiquette to offer cigarettes when you meet someone new. But ZTE, the company trying to clinch the deal, is a huge company, and I am sure there was some kind of briefing on dealing with Filipinos.

VIP

I'm even wondering now if they were intentionally rough and uncouth, to show they were calling the shots. Perhaps, too, they were that way, having seen how easily corruptible Filipino officials are with a little of wine, women, song (and golf).

I know Filipino businessmen who have had to deal with the Chinese, and they tell me the "bribes" are standard. Of course, no one calls it that. They simply build it into a deal, but here's the catch: the bribes are there to ensure efficiency, that the project gets going and is finished on time—or else.

I'm not condoning the Chinese way—it's still dishonest as far as I'm concerned. But it is important for Filipino government officials and business people to recognize how this corruption is "rationalized." Even more importantly, it is possible to say no, by showing you are incorruptible and laying out the cards from the beginning.

This is where I have learned from Westerners. When I'm sent by an American or European foundation to China to review proposals or evaluate a program, I'm always reminded that whenever possible, I must pay for everything myself. No free hotels, no free meals, not even a free taxi ride. The Americans will say, "I have to pay for my meal" and they literally mean "my," which upsets the Chinese. I tell my Chinese hosts, "Let me pay for all of us, this is company policy," which makes it more acceptable and sends the message that I'm avoiding any conflict of interest. This also allows me to assert myself. I can then proceed to "suggest" who sits next to whom, and request that no one smokes because it's not good for the lungs of the older people with us. (The Chinese are honored when you recognize their age.)

For as long as the Chinese have to deal with our corrupt officials, they will continue to treat us as *xiao ren*, small people or worse, cheap people. Let's equip our diplomats and government officials and business people with foreign languages and inter-cultural communication skills, but let's emphasize, too, the angle of personal integrity and self-respect so that we can negotiate on higher moral ground.

THEY SAID

Torn lover

"I am torn between my love for my son and my love for the President."

—House Speaker Jose de Venecia, after his son Joey implicated the First Gentleman in the controversial National Broadband Network deal

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The worst punishment

THANK GOD I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO merit a Senate investigation.

My late father-in-law used to warn his children never to get entangled with the law because a police record will follow you for the rest of your life. But I think it's even more important to tell our children that if they want to lead a private life, away from the glare of publicity and public attention, then they should never join politics, never accept a public position, never bid for any government contract, or point any accusing fingers at any government official or entity—or else.

Or else... they will reap the worst punishment ever conceived against any human being—being grilled by our senators. I wouldn't wish what befell Joey de Venecia, CHED Chairman Romulo Neri, Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos and a varied cast of supporting characters even on my worst enemy. Imagine, being interrogated for more than eight hours, in the literal glare of public scrutiny and TV lights, berated, hounded and harangued, and having all your decisions and actions, including fathering a possible love child, laid bare before the world and nipped at nausium.

If Neri, who was said to still be suffering from intestinal flu, was queasy before he entered the Senate hall, he must have been positively nauseous as he left it. By the time the radio coverage (I was in an area without TV) was cut short to give way to the early evening news, I was myself feeling a little dizzy, my head swimming with figures and assertions, truths and counter-truths, excuses and innuendos, and one angry outburst from the Mistress of the Dramatic Walkout. It was concededly extremely entertaining, but as the day wore on, I could just imagine how weary the witnesses were, though our gallant legislators still showed plenty of gusto and had on reserve never-ending rounds of ammunition to hurl at their "invitees."

NERI'S testimony had been much-anticipated, and when he came out and finally confirmed that indeed Chairman Abalos had told him that there was "200 for you" should the ZTE broadband deal push through, everyone lis-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

tening thought he had finally found his mojo.

But the rest of his testimony was decidedly anti-climactic. Sen. Mar Roxas was right: even if Neri had told the President about the bribery attempt, he should have warned his "principal" that this was the same contract for which he had been sounded out earlier when the deal came before the President for approval. If the proponents and their agent had P200 million (the amount Neri conceded he thought Abalos was referring to) to spare to bribe a single official, then clearly the project was, at the very least, overpriced. But when asked to explain why the President was dead-set on pushing through with the broadband project, Neri hid behind GMA's skirt, as it were, invoking executive privilege.

And what about Abalos? His standard excuse for his seemingly constant presence whenever the Chinese met with local officials to discuss the project was that he was simply there as a matter of courtesy, being president of Wack Wack golf club and having facilitated the booking of such meetings.

Now, I wonder why the folks at ZTE were so fond of Wack Wack. After all, there are hundreds of golf courses, not to mention hotels and restaurants, which they could book for their trysts and meetings. Why did they always have to meet in a golf course where Abalos has such influence?

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago's tirade against the witnesses had the ring of truth. In essence, the entire controversy boils down to a dispute over kickbacks.

Lost in Pandacan

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

epic poem that we all endured in high school.

We are told that Balagtas moved from Tondo to Pandacan sometime in 1835 or 1836. There, he fell in love with a certain Maria Asuncion Rivera who is said to be the "Celia," the muse to whom "Florante at Laura" was dedicated. If you will remember the only clue we have to the identity of Celia are the initials "M.A.R."

Hermingildo Cruz, in his often cited book "Kung Sinong Kumatha ng Florante?" actually gives us the names of other women in the bard's life. While textbook history has chosen to immortalize Maria Asuncion Rivera as the muse, there happens to be another contender for the title by the name of Magdalena Ana Ramos, who has unfortunately been forgotten by history.

The next question is why did someone named Maria Asuncion or Magdalena Ana have the nickname "Celia" (depending on the version you are holding, this is also spelled "Selya")? This has not been fully explained, but for a very complicated apocryphal story about M.A.R. having musical talent and being a good pianist. It is said that she got her nickname because there was a painting atop her piano depicting St. Cecilia, patroness of music, amusing angels by playing on an organ.

Leaving this rather obscure story behind, we have to explore other angles, other versions. Aside from the two women who shared Balagtas and the initials M.A.R., there was a third person who stood up to be recognized. The late E. Aguilar Cruz once wrote about a certain Candida San Jose, also of

But these are no ordinary kickbacks, and no ordinary adversaries. These are government officials—and their kin—wrangling over the rewards of a very lucrative deal. By that alone, the scandal warrants a Senate investigation.

The lucrative deal, though, could also stand some scrutiny. Basic to the issue is whether the project is needed at all, or whether the government would be better off leaving our telecommunications needs to the more experienced, better disseminated, and proven private sector.

I also take umbrage at Neri's assertion that all that mattered to him and his assistants at Neda was whether there was a potential "return on investment" on the project. How the project was to be financed did not matter. Excuse me, as a taxpayer, the question of how the project is to be financed matters a lot because that's my money they're talking about! If the private sector says it can carry out the broadband project using its own resources, with no obligation at all to the government, shouldn't that be given weight? No matter how low the interest on the loan, the government—that is, the Filipino people—will still be left holding the bag once the project gets going. I think government people, but especially development planners, would want to keep the people's money safe from risk as much as possible.

AS THE day drew on, the senators began to use the hearing to ventilate their grievances against the witnesses, particularly Abalos. Understandably, while they were still campaigning and while the votes were being counted, discretion demanded that they keep at least a civil relation with the Comelec chief. But now that Abalos had been haled before the Senate, it seemed everyone was out to give him a piece of his mind.

And this is yet another reason to avoid facing a Senate hearing. I don't have any love lost for Abalos, but I did feel sorry for him that at the twilight of his years in government service, he will be remembered best for his wife's defense of his honor: that after a prostate problem, that "part of his life" has long been over.

Pandacan, who declared with her dying breath, at the age of 83, that the dedication of Balagtas referred to her grandaunt, Celia Castañeda. Abe Cruz told me this alternative story:

Celia Castañeda was a beautiful woman. (Why should muses always be beautiful? Can't we have someone who can win the annual Miss Ugly—No More—contest?) Her distinguishing feature happened to be long, beautiful hair that extended all the way down to her ankles. (Now that is someone who can make a living endorsing hair products, or even playing Rapunzel in freak shows.) Following the Filipino notion of beauty, Celia had fair skin and was so desirable that Balagtas had many rivals for her hand, including the Spanish *corta* (parish priest) of Pandacan and another forgotten poet by the name Mariano Kapule. To cut a complicated story short, Balagtas was imprisoned on trumped-up charges fabricated by the priest, who then raped the hapless Celia. The gallant Mariano Kapule offered to marry her to preserve her honor, but Celia refused. Celia then took her own life.

This is an anti-friar story popular in the 19th century, and we don't know how reliable it is. For one thing, the sex-starved *corta* and the desolate victim resemble characters in Rizal's novels. So far nothing is certain about the M.A.R. in "Florante at Laura," so we are left with textbook history.

Getting lost in the navel of Pandacan was a welcome experience. When we passed Beata Street I remembered Chapter 62 of the "Noli" where Ibarra and Elias are being pursued along the Pasig, and Elias said, "We must enter the Beata River to make it appear that I am from Peñafrancia. You will see the river of Francisco Baltazar's poems."

That beautiful river is now a black stinking estero. Why is it that when we speak of the Pasig or Manila as a beautiful place, we do so only in the past tense?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu



FACT: Not all pens are created equal, one name marks the difference.

uni MITSUBISHI

A plea to idealist Neri

WE REMEMBER CHED CHAIR ROMULO Neri as part of a generation of principled, young and idealistic men and women who sought reforms in Philippine society. A martyr to the cause, Edgar Jopson, was his friend and classmate.

We have dialogued and debated with Neri on critical economic issues. In some areas, our policy positions converged. We were on the same side in the advocacy for a competitive exchange rate. And we supported him in his stand against regulatory capture [a phenomenon in which a government regulatory agency which is supposed to be acting in the public interest becomes dominated by the vested interests of the incumbents in the industry that it oversees.—Wikipedia].

We have also disagreed with him on other issues. For example, we criticized his rosy growth projections, which lulled some sectors into thinking that all is well about the Philippine economy.

Apart from professional camaraderie, what binds us all "together is our conviction for truth and justice to prevail." It is in this light that we urge Neri not to turn his back on the search for truth. We urge him to be forthcoming about all that he knows regarding how the contract was sponsored, negotiated and signed.

—MICHAEL ALBA, LUZ ANIGAN, MANUEL BUENCAMINO, JESSICA REYES CANTOS, JENINA JOY CHAVEZ, SYLVIA ESTRADA-CLAUDIO, RAMON FERNAN III, MARGARITA R. GOMEZ, JOSE ERNESTO LEDESMA, FIDES LIM, JOSEPH Y. LIM, NEPOMUCENO MALALUAN, CRISTINA MORALES, RENE OFRENEO, RAFAEL PAREDES, RENE R. RAYA, RINA ROSALES, FILOMENO S. STA. ANA III, Action for Economic Reforms, www.aer.ph

Code sharing normal industry practice

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER OF ARNEL F. de Guzman (INQUIRER, 9/19/07) which contained wild accusations and distorted facts. Allow us to set the record straight:

1. There is no "monopolistic stranglehold" of the industry by Philippine Airlines or any other player. There is freewheeling competition in both domestic and international air services, and PAL is right there competing keenly with all types of carriers—low-cost, subsidized and protected state carriers, mega-airlines from developed countries, carriers belonging to global alliances, etc. You name it, we are taking them on.

2. PAL does not receive any tax break when it imports jet fuel. We pay the full rate, including taxes, like any normal private enterprise. Neither does PAL receive any government support, unlike our fellow flag carriers in Southeast Asia, which are all state-owned or backed.

3. Naia Centennial Terminal 2 is a government-owned and -operated facility. As such, how is it that PAL should have spent for its construction, as De Guzman protests? Governments build airport terminals and then lease them out to airlines. PAL is a mere tenant at Terminal 2, paying rent and other charges for its use. We don't have an exclusive right to it; the government is free to lease it to other tenants.

4. De Guzman portrays "code sharing" as a shady scheme hatched by PAL to fool travelers and earn easy money. This is not the case. Code sharing is a widespread industry practice in which two or more airlines offer a joint product. Virtually all major international carriers have code-sharing arrangements. In our own code-share pacts, PAL is an active partner. We don't just sit and collect commissions, as De Guzman alleges. We buy blocks of seats from the operating airline and then go out and sell these seats, supported by our own promotional efforts.

On certain routes, the roles are reversed. PAL is the operating carrier and the partner airline buys blocks of seats from us to sell. Examples are Manila-Jakarta and Manila-Saigon, where Garuda and Vietnam Airlines, respectively, code-share on PAL-operated flights. Indeed, the public is better served because you now have two airlines combining their sales muscle to develop markets—which could mean lower fares or a wider range of travel packages for customers. Code sharing is therefore, a "win-win" situation for all.

—ROLANDO G. ESTABILLO, vice president, Corporate Communications, Philippine Airlines, Makati City

Another Erap joke

THIS SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER ESTRADA joke: "Pardon me, but I will not admit guilt. I will not admit guilt, therefore I am not guilty. If I am not guilty you will have to pardon me, absolutely."

What an inglorious end to a tragi-comic drama that was the Estrada presidency.

Another option will be to appeal his case all the way to the Supreme Court. If Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not "cattle prod" the justices, the case could take five to 10 years to resolve, by which time she herself may be on trial, too.

Estrada's lawyers should file the appeal now. It would be the honorable thing to do, even if he passes away before his case is resolved. But, maybe, Erap has not heard of this phrase before: "The honorable thing to do."

The speed with which the Estrada plunder case was resolved shows how "justice" can be meted out in the Philippines. The Arroyo administration had to legitimize the Edsa II power grab. Imelda Marcos is laughing so hard. So is Fidel V. Ramos. Tita Cory is not amused though she is mad, and there will be hell to pay.

—ALFONSO DEMAYO, hombresiete@yahoo.ca

Lost 'Lean's List'

LEAN ALEJANDRO WAS ALSO A FAN OF THE original Star Wars Trilogy. ("Lean Alejandro's 'precious' secret," INQUIRER, 9/22/07) I also remember him giving me a list of books that he said were "must-read," and yes, it included Tolkien's and Trotsky's.

I was with his University Student Council, Batch '83-'84, at the state university. I regret the fact that I actually threw out that list because I was afraid it would be taken against me in case of a crackdown on student activists after the Ninoy Aquino assassination in 1983.

—MARILOU SANTOS-SYJUECO, c/o De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila



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Security Council urges junta to exercise restraint

UNITED NATIONS—AFTER INITIAL resistance from China, the UN Security Council issued a statement of concern about the violent crackdown on Buddhist monks in Burma (Myanmar) and urged the military regime to let in a special envoy.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, was expected to leave for the region on Wednesday night after briefing the emergency council meeting in the afternoon on the violence.

Council diplomats said China, which has close economic ties to Burma, did not want any document issued after the closed-door session but relented and agreed to a brief statement, which was read to reporters by France's UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert.

"Members of the council have expressed their concern vis-a-vis the situation, and have urged restraint, espe-

cially from the government of Myanmar," the statement said.

The junta's forces opened fire on antigovernment protesters in the center of the country's largest city, Rangoon (Yangon). One person was reported killed but dissident groups claimed the casualty count was higher, with as many as five people killed, including monks.

UN's Ban called on the Burmese government to exercise its "utmost restraint" and later met one-on-one with Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win. On the way to the meeting, a reporter asked about the five reported deaths and Win replied: "You asked if five people died and we said no."

Indonesia's new UN Ambassador Marty Natalegawa said Burma was not on the agenda of a ministerial meeting on Thursday of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), on the sidelines of the high-level UN General Assembly session, but the violence

was likely to be taken up. Burma is a member of the 10-nation group.

Outrageous

The United States and the council's European Union members—Britain, France, Italy and Belgium—had condemned the attacks and called on the country's military rulers to stop the violence and open a dialogue with prodemocracy leaders.

"What's going on in Burma is outrageous," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after a luncheon meeting of ministers from the eight major industrialized nations. "The regime needs to stop using violence against peaceful people and get to a dialogue so that they can have reconciliation."

China and Russia contend that the situation in Burma is an internal affair and doesn't threaten international peace and security—as required for Security Council action—so getting the two nations to

agree to the press statement was considered a positive step.

"It is a huge breakthrough," said Yvonne Terlingen, UN representative for Amnesty International. "It is unprecedented that the Security Council made a statement about human rights in Burma—and that is very important."

Restoring stability

China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya told reporters that the most important thing was to see that Burmese authorities "restore stability," and to get Gambari into the country as soon as possible.

"China is a neighbor to Myanmar, so we more than anyone else wish to see that Myanmar will achieve stability, national reconciliation, and we want to see them making progress on the road of democratization," Wang said. "We hope that the government and people there could just sort out their differences."

Wang said that he believed sanctions would not be helpful, stressing that "these problems now at this stage (do) not constitute a threat to international and regional peace and stability."

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin supported the council statement. "We are concerned about the developments and regret the loss of life," he said.

Rare double veto

In January, China and Russia cast a rare double veto on a US-sponsored resolution calling on Burma's military government to release all political prisoners, speed up progress toward democracy and stop attacks against ethnic minorities.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the United States supported the statement and Gambari's mission. Asked about China's reaction, he said: "We have called on them to use their influence, and we hope that they will." AP

Burma junta intensifies crackdown; monks defiant

From page A1
city remaining defiant against the regime.

Shortly before dawn, security forces raided two Buddhist monasteries, beating up and hauling away more than 70 monks after a day of violent confrontation with monk-led protesters that drew international appeals for restraint.

Security forces in the isolated Southeast Asian nation fired at protesters for the first time on Wednesday in street protests that have brewed over the past month into the biggest rallies against Burma's military rulers since 1988. At least one man was killed and others wounded in chaotic clashes in Rangoon.

The protesters, led by thousands of monks in cinnamon robes, have been demanding more democratic freedoms, the release of political activists and economic reforms in the impoverished nation.

Early Thursday, security forces arrested Myint Thein, the spokesperson for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's political party. An executive of her National League for Democracy, Hla

Pe, was also arrested.

Soldiers at Suu Kyi's home

An Asian diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Thursday that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi remained at her Rangoon residence where she has been detained for 12 years.

Rumors had circulated that she had been taken away to Rangoon's notorious Insein prison.

The diplomat said that the junta had deployed more security forces around Suu Kyi's house and on the road leading to her residential compound and that more than 100 soldiers were now inside the compound.

"The sign of increasing security forces make me confident that she is still there," the diplomat said. He said others had told him that they had seen the diminutive opposition leader in her home on Wednesday night.

The diplomat also said flyers were spreading around the nation's largest city of Rangoon on Thursday, encouraging more civilians to join the protests.

Several monasteries that are consid-

ered hotbeds of the prodemocracy movement were raided by security forces before dawn in an apparent attempt to prevent the demonstrations spearheaded by the Buddhist clergy.

Bloodstains

A monk at the Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery, pointing to bloodstains on the concrete floor, said a number of monks had been beaten and at least 70 of its 150 monks had been taken away in vehicles. Shots were fired in the air during the chaotic raid.

A female lay disciple said a number of monks were also arrested at the Moe Gaung monastery which was being guarded by soldiers. Both monasteries are located in Rangoon's northern suburbs.

Internet images

Dramatic images of Wednesday's protests, many transmitted by dissidents using cell phones and the Internet, riveted world attention on the escalating face-off between the military regime and its opponents.

The United States called on Burma's military leaders on Thursday to open a

dialogue with peaceful protesters in the reclusive Asian nation and urged China to do what it could to prevent further bloodshed.

"We all need to agree on the fact that the Burmese government has got to stop thinking that this can be solved by police and military, and start thinking about the need for genuine reconciliation with the broad spectrum of political activists in the country," said US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill in Beijing.

Rocks and bottles

On Wednesday, protesters in Rangoon pelted police with bottles and rocks. Onlookers helped monks escape arrest by bundling them into taxis and other vehicles and shouting "Go, go, go, run!"

The government said one man was killed when police opened fire during the ninth consecutive day of demonstrations, but dissidents outside Burma reported receiving news of up to eight deaths.

Some reports said the dead included monks, who are widely revered in Burma, and the emergence of such martyr figures could stoke public anger against the regime and escalate the violence.

As the stiffest challenge to the generals in two decades, the crisis that began on Aug. 19 with protests over a fuel price hike has drawn increasing international pressure on the isolated regime.

Biggest challenge

The Burmese government said security forces fired on Wednesday when the crowd that included what it called "so-called monks" refused to disperse at the Sule Pagoda and tried to grab weapons from officers. It said police used "minimum force."

The junta statement said a 30-year-old man was killed by a police bullet. It said two men and a woman also were hurt when police fired, but did not specify their injuries.

Exiled Burmese journalists and democracy activists released reports of higher death tolls, but the accounts could not be independently confirmed.

The protests are the biggest challenge to the junta since a failed 1988 democracy uprising. In that crisis, soldiers shot into crowds of peaceful demonstrators, killing some 3,000 people. Reports from AFP and AP

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Neri faces more grilling by senators

From page A1

Neri's information does not involve national security, military secrets or diplomatic relations, they may compel Neri to answer their questions. Otherwise, he would be cited in contempt and placed under arrest.

"There are still a lot of questions. The direct link to the President is not yet on record," Cayetano said.

"But the indirect link to the President ... is already there," he said, referring to the fact that Ms Arroyo had approved a loan deal with China for the NBN project despite her earlier insistence at Neda meetings that the project should be a build-operate-transfer scheme that would not require a government loan.

Cayetano also said the inquiry had linked the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, as well as Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to the controversial deal.

The joint inquiry may hold its fifth and last hearing on the matter on Thursday.

Andaya in senators' session

Neri was among those who testified at Wednesday's 10-hour Senate hearing, which was followed by an executive session called to address his basis for invoking executive privilege.

The senators excused Neri after learning that he was having chills and running a fever.

Both opposition and administration senators continued to question Neri's basis for invoking executive privilege in

Militants to Neri: Speak up or step down

By Jerome Aning

"SPEAK UP OR STEP DOWN" was the choice presented by militant groups yesterday to Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, whom they challenged to redeem himself by revealing all he knew about President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) commended Neri for disclosing the alleged P200-million bribe offer allegedly made by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin

Abalos Sr., but assailed him for invoking executive privilege to avoid having to answer questions regarding the President.

"His testimony only proved that he has chosen one group to protect and another to ditch. We still hope that he can muster the necessary strength and courage to reveal everything he knows about this mess. We're keeping the faith," said FDC secretary general Milo Tanchuling.

According to Tanchuling, Neri tried to be brave during Wednesday's Senate hearing, but was "not brave and bold enough."

The urban poor group Maypagasa, through its spokesperson Roel Garcia, aired a similar view,

adding that Neri "should tell all because we feel he is holding crucial information that will really get us to the bottom of the scandal, which is Malacañang."

The Confederation for Unity, Advancement and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage) led a protest rally at the Senate yesterday to register its opposition to the NBN contract won by China's ZTE Corp.

Said Courage president Ferdinand Gaito: "Corruption victimizes the people, and thus cannot be a part of executive privilege. Neri has the supreme duty to reveal all information and his conversations with Ms Arroyo on

ZTE. Public rights and interests should be placed higher than his loyalty to Ms Arroyo."

Gaito ticked off the corruption scandals that had rocked the Arroyo administration, including the P1-billion scam involving the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard and the P728-million fertilizer scam.

"The stakes and stash are becoming higher. This government has no shame," he said.

The FDC reiterated its call for the immediate resignation of all public officials implicated in the NBN scandal, "for adhering to, taking part in, or having knowledge of this illegitimate deal."

quiries without her consent.

Apostol said there was no "clear-cut" resolution in the high court's decision.

Told that invoking executive privilege would serve to show that Neri and the President were hiding something from the public, Apostol said: "Nothing is being hidden. Neri is saying that the President has no knowledge of and is not privy to the [alleged bribery]."

Apostol refused to comment when reminded that Neri told the Senate inquiry on Wednesday that he had informed Ms Arroyo of Abalos' purported bribery attempt.

Room for interpretation

Sen. Loren Legarda said being evasive or refusing to answer questions only left more room for interpretations of events, such as why the President continued to support the NBN project despite having been told of Abalos' supposed bribe offer.

Legarda added that congressional inquiries were "not meant to pin the blame on anyone."

Sen. Richard Gordon said Neri's invoking of executive privilege was out of place and invalid: "It only holds in a question hour. There are no national security considerations, no problems on diplomatic relations with other countries. And the topic is not a state secret that is part of negotiations."

Gordon said Cayetano "should never have allowed" Neri to invoke executive privilege.

Toxic

"He (Cayetano) was wrong," Gordon said, adding:

"What I believe is weighty in this hearing is Abalos' bribe offer to Neri, which could mean that he made bribe offers to other people."

Pimentel agreed: "I think Abalos [made a bribe offer] to other people aside from Neri and [Jose] de Venecia [III]."

Gordon also said the ZTE contract "should not have been suspended [as the President has done], but junked."

"The contract is poisoned altogether; it is toxic already," he said.

not go easy on Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, at the next hearing.

"Executive privilege cannot be used to cover up for corruption," Pangilinan said.

He said Neri's invoking executive privilege was contrary to the Supreme Court decision stating that it could only be invoked if the information would affect national interest.

To the high court

Malacañang, however, was fully supportive of Neri's action.

According to Sergio Apostol, Ms Arroyo's chief legal counsel, Neri "cannot be compelled" to testify on matters spoken in confidence between the President and members of her Cabinet.

And there is "no need to cite a basis," Apostol told reporters.

He said Malacañang was expecting the matter to be elevated to the Supreme Court if push came to shove.

Apostol, a former trial court judge, said the ambiguity in the claim of executive privilege arose from the decision handed down by the high court in resolving "Senate of the Philippines v. Eduardo R. Ermita" in February 2006.

The case stemmed from Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 barring the appearance of executive officials in Senate in-

I'm not Abalos' ...

From page A1

Aquilino Pimentel raised in the Senate investigation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal yesterday said the allegation not only hurt her but also left her young daughter too embarrassed to hold her next birthday party.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Evelyn Catherine Silagon denied any romantic link with Abalos, her former boss at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) before he was appointed to the Comelec in 2002.

Show courtesy to woman

"I have no relationship with Chairman Abalos. He is not the father of my daughter. It's their burden to prove," Silagon said.

The 52-year-old former free lance public relations practitioner said Pimentel had been insensitive and unkind.

"He was maligning a woman. He should show courtesy to a woman," she said.

At the hearing on Wednesday where Abalos was accused of taking a kickback and offering bribes to facilitate the NBN project, Pimentel alluded to circulating text messages about Abalos and Silagon.

The texts said Abalos had an 8-year-old daughter with Silagon and had given her four cars and three condominium units at Prime Towers at Rockwell in Makati City.

Mrs. Abalos 'hurting'

Abalos yesterday said his wife was hurting not only because of the bribery and kickback charges hurled against him, but also because of the text messages saying that he had a mistress.

"She's hurt," Abalos told reporters at the House of Representatives where he attended a budget hearing for the Comelec. "Perhaps she's just not showing it because of the situa-

tion I am in right now."

Abalos, 72, said the allegations about Silagon were unfair.

He said he had a "faint recollection" of her.

"I think she used to be among you," he said in Filipino, addressing the reporters gathered around him. "I came to know her when I was MMDA chairman."

Daughter doesn't want party

Silagon called the texts "brutal" and "unfounded."

She said the messages bothered and embarrassed her daughter, who asked her to cancel her ninth birthday party on Oct. 4.

"I don't know if the senator realizes what he has done. He should not drag people into this," Silagon said.

She said she worked for Abalos as his media liaison—for "less than a year"—at the MMDA.

She said Abalos was a good boss who was friendly to everyone.

A single parent, Silagon said she now organized seminars and took care of her daughter, who has asthma.

She said Abalos did not give her anything.

"It's easy to prove that. They can get documents from Makati City and the LTO [Land Transportation Office] to prove it," she said.

In a separate press statement, she said she came out to protect the interest of her daughter.

'I have my own mind'

She said Pimentel should have been "sensitive enough not to drag the name of a private citizen who pays taxes to sustain his pork barrel."

She told the INQUIRER she did not expect an apology from the senator.

"I just want him to stop it show a little respect," she said.

She denied Abalos' camp had asked her to come out and deny the allegations. "I have my own mind," she said. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*



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Pact puts end to hacienda bloodshed

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

LA CASTELLANA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—THE signing of an agreement between two farmer groups here put an end to the 11-year bloody conflict at the Hacienda Velez Malaga.

The 103 beneficiaries allied with Task Force Mapalad and the 199 identified with landowner Roberto Cuenca have had violent clashes in the past, resulting in the death of three TFM members.

On Thursday, Romeo Caram, representing the Hacienda Malaga Multi-Purpose Cooperative that is allied with Cuenca, signed a memorandum of agreement for the equitable and acceptable division of the farm among the beneficiaries at the La Castellana town hall.

Healing process

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, Mayor Alberto Nicor and landowner Roberto Cuenca witnessed the signing.

Pangandaman, Cuenca and Gregorio Paclibar of the Hacienda Velez Malaga Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization (Havemarbo), which is allied with the Task Force Malaga, had signed the same agreement last Saturday.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator Rafael Coscolluela and

Fr. Rolex Nueva, who had helped broker the settlement, said the signing of the MOA signaled the start of a long healing process.

"It is sad that what happened in the past at Velez Malaga has created widespread mistrust. I hope that starting now the healing process will begin," Nueva said.

He also thanked Cuenca for helping in the process and called on the beneficiaries not to waste the opportunity given to them and owners of the land.

It's over

"For the last 11 years, Hacienda Velez-Malaga has been out in the limelight as a place where chaos reigns. That is finally over," Cuenca said.

Cuenca said he and his family were turning over the land they had "nurtured and developed to the care of people whom they hope will also cultivate and love the land that we have all fought for."

The MOA, among others, included a land swap among the



SOME farmers count the cash they received from the Cuenca family during a compromise agreement that raises hope for peace over the hacienda.

CARLA P. GOMEZ

two farmer groups that allows those allied with Cuenca to remain in the main section of the farm.

Cuenca also turned over

P437,000 in cash to the TFM camp for the cultivation of 43.71 hectares that technically belonged to Havemarbo but was given to the cooperative

farmer-members. In exchange, Havemarbo members received an equivalent area in another lot.

All parties also agreed to

withdraw all agrarian related cases filed, excluding criminal cases, and execute the necessary agreements for submission to the courts.

However, the TFM members did not attend the town hall signing since Paclibar had already signed the MOA on Saturday, said Lani Factor, TFM deputy national coordinator.

The TFM members welcome the signing of the MOA but chose to stay at the farm for Mass where they offered their victory to their slain fellow beneficiaries, Factor said.

Separate rites

"It would have been so much better with everybody here celebrating the occasion, it would have spelled a very real step towards reconciliation and healing. But I guess, the TFM members wanted to celebrate on their own, let's not place any malice or express any disappointment, let's just respect that," Coscolluela said at the signing rites.

The total land area covered by CARP under the MOA is 477 hectares, with 94 hectares going to the TFM group and the rest to the members of the cooperative, TFM deputy national coordinator Lani Factor said.

Van yields P1.2B in shabu after crash on highway

CALAMBA CITY—POLICE FOUND P1.2 billion worth of shabu inside a crashed van at the South Luzon Expressway in Barangay Prinza here yesterday.

Chief Supt. Perfecto Palad, Traffic Management Group director, said the drug was stashed inside thick plastic bags which were in 27 small sacks.

The sacks also contained several bottles of air freshener.

"The owners of this contraband will use these bottles of air freshener as front should they be held for inspection," Palad told reporters.

Unusual packing

Citing its unusual packaging, Supt. Joy Cabal, chief of the police Crime Laboratory, said the illegal drug was probably from outside the country as it was placed inside vacuum-packed, double heat-sealed plastic bags.

"Illegal drugs produced locally are not typically placed in this kind of first-class plastic bags," Cabal said.

Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarmino, chief of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Calabarzon, said the illegal drug was apparently shipped from China and dropped in Barangay Butuan in San Fernando, Masbate.

Dropoff point

Belarmino said the area has been known as one of the "dropoff points" of local Chinese drug syndicates which import shabu directly from China.

He also disclosed that the vehicle where the illegal drugs were recovered was registered to a certain Dante Litada who is a resident of San Fernando.

Palad said police, who were manning a police checkpoint in Barangay Turbina, Calamba City, were alerted after they saw a green Toyota Hi-Ace van (WHE 567) racing against a red Toyota Revo near the entrance of SLEX at around 10:30 a.m.

"Instead of slowing down at the checkpoint, the two vehicles were running at high speed. That prompted the TMG operatives to tail them," Palad said.

He said before his men could catch up with the vehicles, the Hi-Ace turned on its side near a bridge in Barangay Prinza.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon



SECOND LIFE

A replica of the historic Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan is among installations in the Expo Pilipino that got a new lease on life with a P40-million fund.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Wedding cake commands Baguio attention

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A CAKE BIG ENOUGH for 56 couples and their guests.

That was the sweet treat for the 56 couples who shared slices of a 16-foot, four-layer chocolate cake after a mass wedding ceremony at the SM City Baguio here on Thursday.

The cake, arguably the largest and tallest baked in the country, was presented here as part of an annual tourism festival held by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB) to attract visitors to the summer capital.

Chefs' parade

Its creation was also a highlight of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the "Chefs on Parade," a culinary festival participated in by professional and amateur chefs, hotel owners, restaurateurs and students.

The couples, who lined up in four designated stations, led the slicing of the giant cake. Cake slices were also distributed to mall goers.

The oldest couple was German Ram-buyong, 74, and his partner, Candida, 55.

"What we had undertaken was not meant to beat any world record. [We wanted to show] that we were capable of boosting the city's tourism industry," Anthony de Leon, HRAB president, said in an earlier press forum.

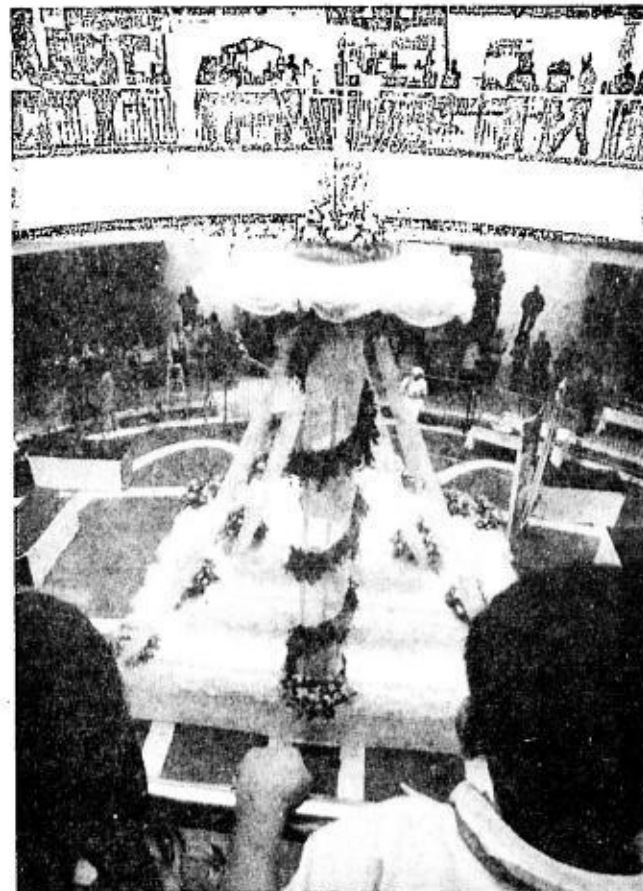
He said the three-ton cake could feed about 15,000 people. It was covered with white sponge icing and decorated with fresh flowers and pieces of strawberries and grapes and slices of oranges and apples.

Hard work

Noel Ramos, food and beverage manager of the Baguio Country Club, said the 20 bakers and 40 chefs started baking pieces of the giant cake on Sunday.

The small cakes were placed on 630 trays and were stored in the chilling area of BCC. These were taken to the mall's atrium on Thursday morning where it was assembled and decorated.

Art Nucaza, BCC's pastry chef who led the creation of the "King Carrot Cake" in La Trinidad, Benguet, in 2001 and the longest raisin bread presented in Baguio City in 2004, led the preparation of the giant wedding cake this year.



THE MERE size of Baguio's largest wedding cake commands attention from mall goers. More than 50 couples partook of the cake.

ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Civil society backs Panlilio fight to keep quarry control

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Some 300 leaders of civil society groups in Pampanga have asked Gov. Eddie Panlilio to veto an ordinance that changes the ways by which the province's multimillion peso quarry industry is managed and the revenues from it are shared.

Leaders of the Kapampangan Marangal, Kapampangan Coalition, Conscience, Abak na Balen Pampanga Association of Non-Government Organizations, Pampanga Anti-Gambling Council, Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon and Save Pampanga Movement clamored for the rejection of Ordinance 176 (formerly 172) by submitting position papers or expressing their stand during a consultation held at the St. Jude Parish here on Tuesday night.

They cited lack of consultations as well as violations of several provisions of the Local Government Code, Mining Act of 1991 and Small-Mining Act on why they sought the junking of Ordinance 176.

Unanimous vote

The provincial board, by a vote of 10-0, passed the ordinance on Sept. 21.

The Pampanga Mayors' League filed the measure on Aug. 29.

Corazon Gamboa-Ortiz, 65, sent Panlilio a letter by e-mail, asking him to "please, please, don't allow them to [manage the quarry industry]."

"The main reason I am writing you is to ask you to veto [the ordinance] that would decrease the revenues of the province," said Ortiz, a Kapampangan who resides now in Roxas City.

After hearing the stand of various groups, Panlilio announced: "Salangangan taya pu. (We will oppose the ordinance). Should they override it, we will go to court."

He thanked them for their "solidarity in our crusade for good governance and good citizenship," assuring that "though our ship is tossed by big waves, ours is going forward and in the right direction."

Panlilio said his administration has removed kickbacks for public projects, generated confidence and support of the capitol's department heads and among other things, eliminated irregularities in the collection of quarry fee and tax.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Veggie smuggling looms, gov warns

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—GOV. NESTOR Fongwan warned of the possible entry into the country of smuggled vegetables within the next three months as unscrupulous traders might take advantage of the expected peak in vegetable demand.

Fongwan urged the government in a media forum here on Tuesday to form an anti-smuggling task force for vegetables that would help curb the illegal importation that becomes rampant during the holidays.

He said that his office had received reports about the presence of imported Chinese carrots in some markets in Metro Manila that has caused panic among the province's farmers and industry leaders.

"We are at a loss as to the source of the carrots but it is highly possible they came from China

since it is harvest time for carrots there," he said.

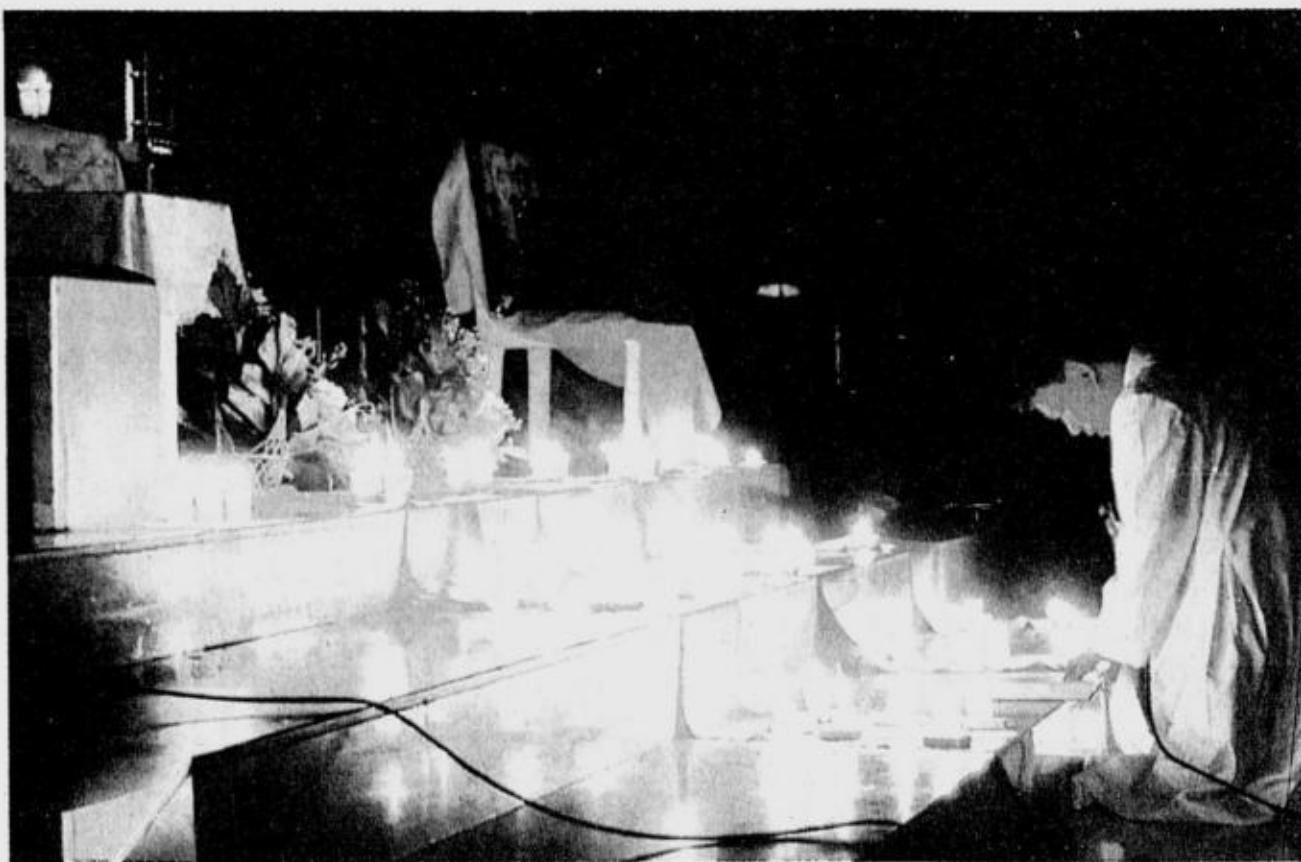
Fongwan suspected the carrots were smuggled after the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Plant Industry told him that no import permits for Chinese carrots had been issued.

He said illegal importers could be in cahoots with the operators of bonded warehouses who possibly served as conduits of imported vegetables.

The province's farmers complained recently about the sudden dip in the price of carrots sold by wholesale at the vegetable trading post here.

They said the price decrease was abnormal considering the volume of supply.

Fongwan said the farmers' complaint validated the information that foreign carrots had made their way into the domestic market. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



CANDLES are lit for soldiers slain in Sulu. The continuing war between government troops and rebels is turning more and more women into widows, grieving mothers or sisters. *JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN*

Widowhood gets new meaning in Pampanga group

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FOR AT LEAST 30 women here, life did not end when their husbands died.

Widowhood, as how they lived it, is more than grieving or sulking. By the way they lead their lives they lent the word widow a new meaning.

"Women of integrity, devotion, optimism, wisdom and strength (Widows)" was how their children called them during the Sept. 15 launch of the group "Balu" at the Sto. Niño Parish here.

That redefinition was what was etched on trophies given to the 30 women in the tribute timed for the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows or the grieving Blessed Virgin Mary.

Balu, a Kapampangan word for widow, stands for Basic Assistance for Love of the Underprivileged.

It is an apostolate by the widows and their children for other widows and orphans. This makes Balu the newest special ministry of the Archdiocese of San Fernando in Pampanga, said its organizer, Fr. Jose Ronnie Cao.

The concept of Balu, according to Cao, is based on the Gospel account, "The Son of Widow Restored to Life" (Luke 7:11-17).

Overcoming widowhood

"Like Jesus who had pity on the widow in a town called Naim (or Nain), we are also called to respond responsibly to the needs of other people like the widow. Jesus' compassion moved him to restore the life of the widow's son," Cao said.

The women's stories tell of how, even without husbands, they have moved on to keep their families going, solely doing the responsibilities of rearing and disciplining children and finding the means to survive while healing their own wounds from the loss.

Cao's mother, Aurora, overcame widowhood through grit.

Widowed just when she was 30, Aurora has given education to all her five children.

"Sikap mu (It's all a matter of hard work)," she said after the tribute that came on her 59th birthday.

"I went farming, sold corn for feeds, raised pigs, maintained a small store, took out loans," she said.

Priorities

Like the rest in the group, she never remarried, wanting to focus on the children.

Felisa Tayag, the oldest of the awardees at 82, lost her husband 13 years ago. She mourned for losing the gift of growing old with him, this *hilot* (village midwife) said.

She said she got by through the help of her 10 children.

Tayag and her late husband supported the children by farming and on his meager salary as an employee at the provincial engineer's office.

How the children got their college degrees is their own feat, Tayag said.

The eldest, a teacher, sent the next sibling to college. This sibling put the next one in school. The pattern went on and on until the 10th finished his course, Tayag said, laughing heartily at this "cycle of sacrifice."

The rest are engineers, one is an aircraft mechanic.

"Reng anak kasaup mu na la (The kids team up with you)," she said. "Manalig ka keng Apung Guinu. Datang ing saup (Have faith in God. Help will come)."

Some widows took on leadership roles in their communities.

Dr. Leticia Yap, for instance, juggled tasks for various civic organizations as she put two of her six children to law and medical schools. Having no one to intimately share the day's lessons, insights and troubles was the saddest part.

"For a while, it was difficult. Nagsasalita ka nang mag-isa nang walang kausap. Yun ang mahirap (You talk to yourself.)"

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Army says NPAs demanding ties with village pols

LUCENA CITY—COMMUNIST guerrillas have started meeting with candidates for village and youth council elections next month to warn the candidates of dire consequences should they ignore rebel policies, the military's Southern Command said.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said the military recently recovered rebel documents and gathered pieces of information that uncovered the rebel meetings with the candidates.

Oaths

Cabangbang said village candidates were being forced to take an oath before the rebels to reject the establishment of military detachments should they get elected.

He said documents showed all guerrilla fronts under the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee had been conducting meetings with village candidates.

Cabangbang said copies of the rebel terms were being distributed by guerrillas of the Southern Tagalog party.

"But I believe this is also being imposed all over the country," he said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, or any rebel representative in Quezon province, for reaction but to no avail.

No option

An incumbent rural village head in the central part of Quezon admitted that he, and other candidates, were approached by a rebel emissary for a scheduled meeting.

"No definite agenda was mentioned. Ignoring the summons is not an option for us," said the village official.

Cabangbang said the military was gathering reports on the amount of permit to campaign fees that the rebels were collect-

ing from candidates.

According to the military, village candidates are being asked by the NPA rebels to also pledge that they would not allow the recruitment of militia units from their barangays.

Cabangbang said the NPA had also asked winning candidates to cover for captured NPA rebels.

The military said village candidates were also under instructions to gather intelligence information on the movement or activities of government troops in their area and the use of the house of barrio officials as safe refuge for communist guerrillas.

IRA share

"The NPA is also asking the village candidates that should they win in the election, they will give to the rebel movement at least 10 percent of the barangay internal revenue allotment," Cabangbang said.

He said NPAs demand the same share from the cost of government projects in territories where they operate.

"They (NPA) also want the village candidates to swear that they will support the activities of the barangay chapter of any rebel-affiliated political organization," Cabangbang said.

On Oct. 29, a punong barangay, an SK chair, seven Sangguniang Barangay council men and seven SK council members will be elected in each of the 41,994 villages across the country.

The filing of certificates of candidacies will start on Sept. 29 and will last until Oct. 18.

The Commission on Elections said unless Congress declared otherwise, the elections would push through on Oct. 29 despite calls for their postponement.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon



FRUIT BOUNTY

Davao residents continue to enjoy bumper harvest of fruits sold at unusually low prices in the market.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Subanens gather to hold 'sorrow ritual'

By Ryan Rosaura
Inquirer Mindanao

OZAMIZ CITY—FIFTY-SIX tribal leaders from Subanen communities in the Zamboanga Peninsula gathered in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, on Monday for a three-day "ritual of sorrow" for their sacred ground, Mount Canatuan, due to mining incursions.

The fate of the mountain reflected "the utter disrespect of TVI for indigenous customs and traditions," said Timuay Jose "Boy" Anoy, host of the assembly.

Canatuan is the principal area of operation of the Canadian-owned TVI Pacific Inc. through its Philippine subsidiary, TVI Resources Develop-

ment Inc. It is the first foreign-owned venture to successfully operate under the Mining Act of 1995.

TVI said it did not trample on the cultural sensitivities of the Subanen by mining in Canatuan. It has repeatedly said that the mountain is not a sacred ground as it was not among the sites listed in the heritage inventory of the National Historical Institute.

Anoy, a member of the Apu Manglang Glupa' Pusaka (Descendants of Apo Manglang), said his people were in possession of a title to an ancestral domain territory that includes Canatuan. They are mourning its destruction in a ritual called the G'longosan sog koguba' nog Konoruan (Tears for the

Destruction of Canatuan), he said.

The mining activities, he said, were "bad omen" for other Subanen communities in the region.

Mining interests have dotted the Zamboanga Peninsula since the Supreme Court reversed its earlier decision declaring the Mining Code unconstitutional, according to the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan (LRCKSK), an environmental protection group.

Aside from its 508-hectare "operational tenement" in Canatuan, TVI alone has interest over a potential mineral area spanning Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

The company filed applications for exploration agreements with the national government for production sharing or financial and technical assistance in the three provinces, a report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Western Mindanao confirmed.

The area comprises 150,000 hectares of land, or six and a half times the size of Camiguin Island.

Anoy said TVI had been encroaching on the Subanen people's ancestral domain even without their consent. The company said its Canatuan project had the support of a Subanen group called the Siocon Subanen Association Inc., then headed by a certain Mariano Tumangkis.

IT experts regret scandal on ZTE deal

BAGUIO CITY—INFORMATION technology schools and government educators tried to promote President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cyber Corridor program on Wednesday when former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri testified in the Senate investigation of the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

But the advocates ended up admitting at a press conference here that the supposed bribery deal implicating the Chinese Zhong Xing Telecommunications Co. (ZTE) and top government officials has already emasculated the program as well as many other government IT initiatives.

Cyber Corridor

Ms Arroyo pursued the creation of the Cyber Corridor in her 2006 State of the Nation Address, which outlined the key investment destinations across the country for business outsourcing firms like call centers or IT software or hardware manufacturing firms.

The Cyber Corridor is bridged by the summer capital in Luzon, which hosts top semiconductor, firm Texas Instru-

ments Philippines Inc., and Davao City in Mindanao.

But Alex Buluran, an IT teacher who represented STI at the Cyber Corridor news conference, said average Filipinos have started to attribute corruption to ongoing government IT projects.

Bad impressions

"Maraming (There's a lot of) bad impressions now [whenever people refer to government IT programs]... Maganda talagang gawing IT (center) ang Baguio at Cordillera (Making Baguio and the Cordillera as IT centers is a good idea) but when investors put up the infrastructure, people will immediately assume kickbacks were paid out," Buluran said.

He said this was a sad development for IT because the Cyber Corridor and the NBN are sound information technology projects for the government.

A Baguio-based software developer, who is listed among the Senate's pool of potential resource speakers for the ongoing NBN probe, echoed this sentiment.

Gladys Vergara said the NBN



PROTESTERS wear paint on their faces to protest the ZTE deal that is now being hounded by allegations of big time corruption.

RUDY ESPERAS

project would have made governance easier.

"The NBN is a very good project. It will make government work faster," said Vergara.

Links

"It means government won't need to pay for cell site access or Internet connections," she said.

Vergara said the NBN would

have linked almost every government IT project, including the Department of Education's P26-billion cyber education contract with the Chinese Tsinghua University.

"Ayusin na nila iyong red tape para matuloy na ang NBN (The government should clean up the red tape so they can finally pursue NBN)," Vergara said.

Marlene Necessito, chief of

the Cordillera operations division of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, said 80 percent of infrastructure investments in the Cyber Corridor would be "privatized."

She said the government's primary mandate for the corridor is to ensure a pool of competent IT workers. **Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Farmers' problem solver just SMS away

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Rice farmers with crop problems are now just a text message away from getting assistance from scientists and experts of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here.

Using their own or borrowed mobile phones, they just text their queries or requests for information to the PhilRice "Farmers' Text Center."

"If the question belongs to the category of most frequently

asked questions (FAQs), of which we have the ready answer, we send the answer instantly," said Roger Barroga, project director of the Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture (Opapa) to which the center belongs.

"The answer is condensed in 160 characters," he said.

If the question is too technical, it is sent to scientists or experts of the agency. "They make sure that they get the response of the concerned scientist or expert within a reasonable time to satisfy their waiting clients," Barroga said.

"Sometimes, if the answer

seemed vague to the farmer, we contact the PhilRice experts in the field or the technicians from other agencies and request them to visit the farmer."

Some farmers send photographs of their sick rice plants through multimedia messaging service (MMS), Barroga said. Through these photos, he said, the experts could readily tell what kind of disease hit the plants and give the proper procedure on how to control it.

"We do not give though the name of the chemicals to use lest we be accused of patroniz-

ing certain products," he said.

The center, which started operating in 2004 using an early-model mobile phone for texting, is now using computers to accommodate hundreds of clients a day.

Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice executive director, saw the big potential of the texting service to help farmers so the center supported the project, Barroga said.

Records of the center showed that it received 5,327 text messages from January to July or an average of 761 a month. Of the number, 1,071 came from Central Luzon, 824 from the Ilocos

and 299 from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

Farmers in Northern Mindanao sent the lowest number of messages (25).

The center also receives questions or requests for information on crops other than rice. Barroga said the questions were referred to the proper agencies.

Farmers who want to reach the Farmers' Text Center should type REG/name/age/address/occupation/and the message in their phones and send the inquiry to 0920-911-1398.

Museum readied for Baguio's centennial celebrations

BAGUIO CITY—AS PART OF THE celebration of the city's 100th charter anniversary in 2009, a museum that will keep photographs and documents charting Baguio's growth will be put up in one of its heritage sites.

Michael Pearson, a member of the Baguio Centennial Commission, said the abandoned Diplomat Hotel at Dominican Hill was chosen as museum site because it offers a panoramic view of the city and it is surrounded by trees.

The museum will showcase the beginnings of the mining industry that was introduced by the Americans in Benguet in the early 1900s, Virgilio Bautista, the commission chair, said.

He said the centennial celebration and its related activities would also recognize the participation of foreign workers involved in the construction of Kennon Road, a major link of the city to the lowland provinces.

The construction of Kennon Road, originally called Benguet Road, involved workers from almost 40 countries. Most of the workers were Japanese, Americans and Filipinos, accounts said.

Bautista said the commission was planning to trace the families of the workers so they could be recognized in the 2009 event.

The Japanese-Filipino community in Baguio will be asked to donate documents and memorabilia to the museum, he said.

Books, photographs and documents issued or printed before the outbreak of World War II are now being evaluated for inclusion, Pearson said. It was difficult to find pre-war materials, especially books, he said, because most of these were destroyed or lost during the fighting and pillage in the 1940s.

Bautista said the commission was preparing a coffee table book on the history of the city and the people and institutions that contributed to its development. **Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

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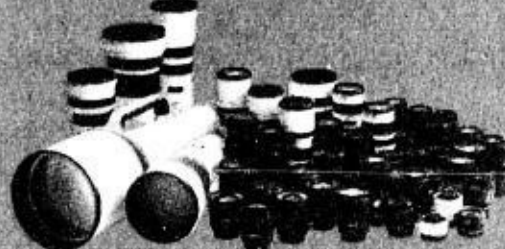
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EF 28-105mm f/3.5-5.6 USM II	11,300	8,500
EF 28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 ISU	24,000	18,000
EF 57-85mm f/4.5-6 ISU	31,000	23,500
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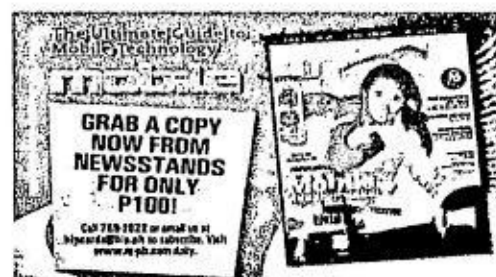
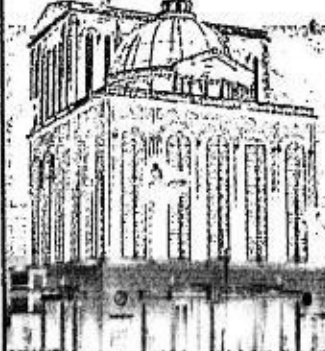


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TEXT CARDS

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hsm2title	troygaze	gabbypretty	sharpaycute	ryanpose	chadcute	taylorcute	troyssyssa
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LOGOS

Text L <keyword> to 2802, Ex: L hsm2title • P15/logo

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P25M worth of shabu seized in P'ñaque

Main suspect allegedly part of Binondo-Quiapo drug connection

By Julie M. Aurelio

A CHINESE NATIONAL WAS ARRESTED TUESDAY night in Parañaque City with over 10 kilos of shabu worth P25 million in his possession.

Ang Ahua, 47, of Ongpin Street, Binondo, Manila, was nabbed by operatives of the National Capital Region Police Office during a buy-bust operation at the Naia Road at around 10:30 p.m.

Senior Insp. Rodrigo Palisoc, anti-illegal drugs chief, said Ahua was a member of the Binondo-Quiapo "drug connection" that supplied illegal drugs all over Metro Manila.

The Binondo-Quiapo drug group allegedly supplies drugs all over Metro Manila, although officials did not identify the group's source.

Arrested with Ahua was Salik Sangote, 21, a native of Marawi City and a resident of Arlequi St., Quiapo, Manila.

Seized from the suspects were 10 plastic bags containing a total of 10 kilos of shabu or metamphetamine hydrochloride.

The two were charged in the office of assistant prosecutor Renato Garcia of the Parañaque City prosecutors' office for peddling and transporting illegal drugs.

"We have been monitoring their activities for more than a month now," Palisoc said. The operation, he added, followed the arrest of a Chinese national during another buy-bust operation on Sept. 6.

During the earlier arrest, NCRPO seized two kilos of shabu from a Chua Liong Chow and Marlon Susano in Tondo, Manila.

Ordinance is legal basis for 'reward,' says Manila dad

By Allison W. Lopez

A FORMER MANILA GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL said the Commission on Audit (COA) had no right to declare that there was "no legal basis" for the payment of P1.6 million to city councilors who served three-terms.

The payment was provided for in Ordinance No. 8040 enacted by the city council on Dec. 7, 2000.

"The ordinance is the legal basis. But it's up to the court to decide *kung may legal basis o wala. Kulang pa nga yung binayad sa amin.* Actually that should be P3 million," claimed Abraham Cabochan, a District 1 councilor for 1995-2004.

The ordinance authorized the conferment of a plaque, retirement and gratuity amounting to at least P3 million to officials, including the mayor, vice mayor and councilors, who qualified for the Exemplary Public Service Award (Epsa).

Payments

Initial payments of P1.6 million were made in 2005 to former councilor Julio Logarta Jr. and four incumbent councilors, Marlon Lacson, Luciano "Lou" Veloso, Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion and Monina "Pipay" Silva, on behalf of her late husband, Hilari-on "Pipoy" Silva.

In 2006, the COA disallowed the payments saying the "monetary reward to former elective officials in the form of retirement and gratuity pay was approved and authorized by the city council without legal basis."

COA Director IV Elizabeth Zosa said the "payment likewise contravenes Article 170 of RA 7160, which provides that no elective or appointive local official shall receive additional, double or indirect compensation unless specifically authorized by law." She asked the six councilors to return the money immediately.

"It's an award, not a benefit. The one who sponsored the ordinance (Lacson) saw that those whose terms had ended *naging kawawa ang buhay dahil napabayaang sarili.*" said Cabochan, who draws income from swine farms.

Councilors, he said, spent much more from their own pockets for their constituents than congressmen did.

DID YOU KNOW

UNITED Nations Avenue in Manila used to be known as Isaac Peral Street. Peral was the Spanish designer of the first electric submarine that fired torpedoes. The submarine, named "Peral," fired three torpedoes during tests conducted in 1889.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

More than two weeks later, Palisoc said a confidential agent of the NCRPO set up a buy-bust deal with Ahua and Sangote in front of the Senses Spa along Naia Road.

The shabu was stored in a dark orange Mazda (UGH 978) and a dark blue Ford F-150 (WJM 959). Authorities also recovered both

vehicles. Spokesperson Supt. Rhodel Sermonia said operatives found one kilo of shabu in the Mazda, and the rest hidden in the Ford.

A test at the crime laboratory of the Philippine National Police confirmed that the seized materials were shabu or metamphetamine hydrochloride.

"We should expect more breakthroughs in our campaign against dealers of illegal drugs," Sermonia said.

"Based on the amount of the seized hoard, we can say Ahua is dealing with big time drug pushers if they are selling by the kilo," Sermonia said.



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3 suspected car theft gang members nabbed

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE ARRESTED THREE suspected car thieves caught Tuesday afternoon in Quezon City in possession of a stolen vehicle.

The suspects are believed to be members of a syndicate. Police identified them as Ricky Moran, 38; Benjie Pascual, 48; and Rodolfo Delgado, 44, all residents of Tondo, Manila.

Authorities said the three were members of the "Rentas Dugas" group whose modus operandi was to rent trailer trucks and container vans from trucking companies. They then sold the vehicles to other trucking companies outside the city.

Police said the suspects also specialized in stealing parked vehicles in dimly lit areas.

The Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping Unit (QCPD-Ancar) caught the suspects dismantling an 18-wheeler truck (PJW-565) with two empty 2x20-footer container vans at around 4 p.m. Tuesday in Sauyo Road, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. The

vehicle, worth at least P2.5 million, was later claimed by its owner, Worldnet Cargo Freight International.

Police also recovered four other container vans worth P1.7 million and two two-unit trailer trucks worth P2 million. They were later claimed by Capital Worldwide Express Cargo Corp. and Topline Globeline Logistics, Inc.

Supt. Bernabe Balba, head of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division, said they were investigating reports that the suspects sold the stolen vehicles to a trucking company in Nueva Ecija.

The vehicles, Balba added, were being sold below their market values. A trailer truck worth P1,000,000, for example, was sold for half the price, he said.

Owners of the stolen vehicles have filed charges of car theft and syndicated estafa against the suspects.

Information on the syndicate came from television programs "Bitag" and "Mission X" hosted by Ben and Erwin Tulfo, respectively.



PLASTIC MAN

An enterprising man has loaded his sidecar with empty plastic jugs collected from various households in Manila which he hopes to sell to a junkyard in the business of recycling used items.

RYAN LIM

METROBRIEFS

Fireman dies in brawl

TEN MEN allegedly mauled Randy Llorente, a member of the Bureau of Fire Protection early yesterday morning in Quezon City, resulting in his death. Llorente died on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center from the heavy beating. The incident happened at 6:30 a.m., yesterday, along Westpoint Street in Cubao. Llorente, who was allegedly drunk, picked a fight with a waiter of the Palawan I Bar and Grill, police said. The victim allegedly turned his ire on the waiter's co-workers who came upon them. This angered five of the suspects who started beating him up. Five other men later joined the mauling.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Jealousy does not pay

A MAN who stabbed dead his girlfriend in 2001 in an act of jealousy was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Manila court yesterday. Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 found Glenn Villabona guilty of the premeditated act against Myrallin Cruz, who died from 15 stab wounds in the vicinity of the University of Santo Tomas in Sampaloc. The court also said the accused was unable to prove that it would be physically impossible for him to be at the crime scene. Apart from the penalty of reclusion perpetua, Villabona was ordered to pay P208,000 to Cruz's family.

Allison W. Lopez

Bonifacio High reunion

MEMBERS of the Andres Bonifacio High School in Sangandaan, Caloocan City, Class '77, are invited to their 30th anniversary reunion on Dec. 30, 6 p.m. at 53 Chicago Tech University Hills, Caloocan City. To register, please call: Fe L. Concepcion, 636-5826; Marie June Garcia Cortez, 847-043; Melinda Magno Cayabyab, 362-9132; Josellito Lorenzo, 480-9909; Celia Dalusong Imperial, 899-5217. Or visit abhs_batch77@yahoo.com. Deadline for registration is Oct. 31.

Raids yield chemicals for making explosives

By Tina G. Santos and Nancy Carvajal

OVER P800,000 WORTH OF chemicals allegedly used in manufacturing explosives were seized yesterday morning from a warehouse in Caloocan and a shanty in Navotas.

The raid was conducted jointly by operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation and Northern Police District.

Edward Villarta, chief of the NBI National Capital Region, said the raiding teams found 492 sacks

(25 kilograms each) of ammonium nitrate at Mandarin Chemicals Inc., a warehouse on 6th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues, Grace Park, Caloocan City.

The warehouse was allegedly owned by Ben Macam. The NBI said the raid around 7 a.m. yesterday was conducted following reports that the company was selling ammonium nitrate, a component of explosives.

A police report said three warehouse employees were arrested. Macam was able to elude the raiders.

Chief Insp. Jose Valencia, head of the investigation division of Caloocan City, said the raiding team was armed with a search warrant issued by Vice-Executive Judge Cielito Mindaro-Grulla of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

He said the agents conducted the raid after receiving information that illegal chemicals were stored there.

The company allegedly supplied ammonium nitrate used by fishermen in Navotas engaged in dynamite fishing, the NBI said.

The chemicals were allegedly

repacked to make it appear they were animal feeds. Each sack of ammonium nitrate was sold for P1,600.

The NBI said that although Mandarin Chemicals Inc. had the license to possess the chemicals, it did not have the authority to repack and sell them.

"And they sell them to people who also have no license to purchase them, which is also a violation of the law," it added.

The NBI said the owner of the warehouse would be charged with violation of Presidential

Decree 1866 or illegal possession and sale of explosives.

Before going to the warehouse, the raiding teams went to a shanty owned by one Alfredo Abeja on Pitong Gatang St., Barangay Sipac Almacen in Navotas.

At least 17 sacks of ammonium nitrate and blasting caps were seized by authorities.

Valencia said the agents put the warehouse and shanty under surveillance after a concerned citizen tipped them off about the stored chemicals.

Fraternities 'surprised' by UP president's directive

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FRATERNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines (UP) Diliman were reportedly unprepared for the administrative order issued last week by president Emerinda Roman directing them to justify their existence within the university system.

University Student Council (USC) president Shahana Abdulwahid told the INQUIRER yesterday that representatives of some 13 fraternities met with the head of the Students' Rights and Welfare (STRAW) committee Tuesday, a day after Roman's directive was sent to leaders of various Greek letter organizations.

The UP president issued the order last week following the suspected fraternity violence-related deaths of students Cris Anthony Mendez of the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG); and Marlon Villanueva of UP Los Baños.

Abdulwahid said she was present during the meeting where most frat representatives reportedly expressed surprise over the memorandum. "The majority of fraternity members claimed that they had not received the memo," she added.

Of the 13 fraternities, no representative of the Sigma Rho, Alpha Phi Beta, and Scintilla Juris attended the meeting. The three

fraternities are among the most dominant Greek letter organizations in the university.

Abdulwahid said the fraternities asked what would qualify as valid justifications for their existence. "They said there were no criteria set or mentioned ... nor was there mention of possible sanctions in case they (fraternities) opted not to comply with the administrative order," she added.

She disclosed plans for a consultation and dialogue between the USC, fraternity representatives and the UP administration to clarify some points in Roman's directive.

Vice chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez told the INQUIRER that memoranda for the fraternities have been distributed Monday to deans of colleges where leaders of the organizations belonged.

"They should have been aware by now of the administrative order that president Roman issued last week," she said.

Roman's administrative order, PERR-07-80 issued on Sept. 18, directed all UP chancellors nationwide to serve the notice to all fraternities within 15 days upon receipt of the "request," but not later than Oct. 19.

The directive followed a meeting between officials of the administration and different colleges that discussed the selective or outright ban of fraternities.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush asks \$190B for Iraq, Afghan wars

WORLD BRIEFS

59 killed in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD—Bomb attacks killed 59 people and wounded more than 120 across Iraq on Wednesday when suspected al-Qaida militants stepped up a campaign of violence coinciding with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In a mainly Shiite district of southwest Baghdad, twin car bombs killed 32 people in one of the biggest attacks to hit the Iraqi capital in weeks.

Reuters

Saudi asks Israel to abandon barrier

ISRAEL should stop work on a security barrier in and along the West Bank and halt settlement activity there as a good-will gesture to assure Arab states that it is serious about comprehensive peace talks, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Wednesday. The minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, stopped short of making his demand a condition for Arab attendance at a planned Middle East peace conference.

NYT

2 Danish soldiers killed in Afghanistan

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Two Danish soldiers were killed and a third was injured in a gun battle with Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan, Denmark's military said Thursday. The firefight happened Wednesday in Upper Gereshk Valley in Helmand province, the Army Operational Command said. Denmark has some 600 troops in Afghanistan. Including the latest deaths, a total of six Danish soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

AP

3 drinks a day boost breast cancer risk

BARCELONA—Three or more drinks a day, whether beer, wine or spirits, boost a woman's risk of breast cancer as much as smoking a pack of cigarettes, US researchers said on Thursday. In what the researchers said was one of the largest studies to investigate links between breast cancer and alcohol—found that alcohol itself and the amount a person consumed were key rather than the type of drink. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer killer of women, after lung cancer. It will be diagnosed in 1.2 million people globally this year and will kill 500,000.

Reuters

See-through frogs cancel need for dissection

TOKYO—Japanese researchers have succeeded in producing see-through frogs, letting them observe organs, blood vessels and eggs under the skin without performing dissections. "You can see through the skin how organs grow, how cancer starts and develops," said the lead researcher Masayuki Sumida, professor at the Institute for Amphibian Biology of state-run Hiroshima University. "You can watch organs of the same frog over its entire life as you don't have to dissect it. The researcher can also observe how toxins affect bones, livers and other organs at lower costs," he said.

AFP

WASHINGTON—THE US GOVERNMENT TRIGGERED a bruising new battle with Congress Wednesday by demanding the mammoth sum of nearly \$190 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The administration's largest funding request yet for the six-year-old "war on terror" came as Democrats battled to pursue a thus-far futile drive to curtail the bloody Iraq mission.

The 2008 budget request was announced by the Pentagon, which also revealed that US military commanders have been warned that they are responsible for overseeing private security contractors in Iraq, a move that comes in the wake of the Sept. 16 shootout in Baghdad involving the Blackwater company that left at least 10 Iraqis dead.

At the United Nations on Tuesday, President George W. Bush assured Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Washington's support, aides said, despite US public anger at the war and the sluggish pace of Iraqi progress on legislation seen as key to forging national unity and quelling sectarian violence.

Addressing the UN Wednesday, Maliki said his country's neighbors realized the dangers of extremist violence on their doorstep as he urged the world body to boost efforts to rebuild the fractured nation.

Even as Maliki spoke, the country was hit the same day with another spate of powerful car and suicide bombings which killed at least 36 people.

The UN has been under strong pressure also from the United States to adopt a higher profile in Iraq, with the Bush administra-

tion under intense military strain from the costly war.

But in the US Senate also on Wednesday, a non-binding resolution was passed in favor of subdividing Iraq on ethnic lines, a plan touted by backers as the sole hope of forging a federal state out of sectarian strife.

It proposes to separate Iraq into Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni entities, with a federal government in Baghdad in charge of border security and oil revenues.

The Bush government's proposed budget increase brought a sharp rebuff from Democrats in the Congress.

As Defense Secretary Robert Gates laid out his case for the extra money in a Senate hearing, senior Democrat Robert Byrd said the "nefarious, infernal war in Iraq" had now cost more than \$450 billion on its own.

"In the fifth year of this terrible, misguided conflict, this senator—yes, this man from the hill country—believes that it is time for a thorough evaluation of the Bush war in Iraq," the West Virginia senator told Gates.

"If we're serious about supporting our troops, we owe them nothing less."

The Pentagon's budget submission was \$42.3 billion greater than the administration's estimate when it presented its first 2008 budget request to the Democratic-led Congress in February.



BUSH takes a seat after addressing the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly Sept. 25. AP

"This additional \$42.3 billion puts us at just under \$190 billion for the global war on terror supplemental request for 2008—\$189.3 billion," Pen-

tagon spokesperson Geoff Morrell told reporters.

Gates said the increase was needed in part to cover the cost of maintaining the so-called "surge" in US forces at least through July 2008, as well as to buy mine-resistant armored vehicles known as MRAPs.

Currently there are 165,000 US troops in Iraq, organized into around 20 combat brigades.

Gen. David Petraeus, the US commander in Iraq, earlier this month announced plans to reduce the size of the force by five brigades by mid-July, which would bring force levels down to around 130,000 troops.

The cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is funded separately from the regular Pentagon budget. The mammoth new request was sure to run into a firestorm in Congress, although the Democrats have so far proven unable to lure enough Republicans away from Bush's Iraq strategy.

AFP

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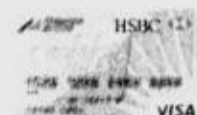
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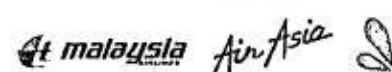


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WHAT'S INSIDE

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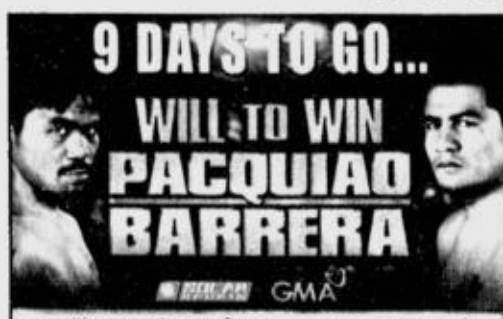
SPORTS

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Gritty Blue Eagles just won't die



LA SALLE'S Rico Maierhofer seeks an open teammate as he hits the floor off a rebound in yesterday's match at the Araneta Coliseum. Clamping down on the Archer are Ateneo's Zion Laterre and Chris Tiu.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tiu dooms Green Archers with drive

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHRIS TIU SPARKED AND CAPPED A SEVEN-POINT ATENEO RUN DOWN the wire as the Blue Eagles stunned the La Salle Green Archers with a thrilling 65-64 triumph yesterday in a continuation of nail-biters that have highlighted their UAAP basketball rivalry this season.

Tiu scored the game-winning drive with 7.3 seconds left before a jam-packed crowd at the Araneta Coliseum as Ateneo forced a knock-out battle this Sunday with La Salle. It also put the Eagles in a position for a return trip to the Finals.

"It was tough, La Salle came out with a lot of energy," said Tiu. "But we hung in there, we stuck together as a team."

The Eagles now have the momentum when the two bitter adversaries meet for the fifth time in a winner-take-all match for the right to fight the University of the East Warriors in a best-of-three Finals.

"It could have gone either way,"

said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "Like I said before, these two teams are evenly matched. It depends on who has the will to win on that particular game."

The Archers, starring TY Tang and Cholo Villanueva, seemed to have the Eagles pinned for good with a 64-58 advantage going into the final two minutes.

But Tiu came up with a clutch triple that cut the deficit, 61-64, with 1:54 minutes left. Ford Arao then delivered the last two points of a season-saving effort of 19 before Tiu struck with the game's biggest basket.

"At least some of the other guys

stepped up and really held the fort," said Black. "But the bottomline was Chris Tiu, who struggled the entire game with one point and five turnovers in the first half. But when the game was on the line, he came up with the big shots that helped us down the stretch."

Rookie Ateneo center Nonoy Bacalao contributed six of his eight points in the final seven minutes even as Black paid tribute to the Eagles' defense that held the Archers scoreless in the final two minutes.

La Salle had a chance to turn the game around but rookie Bader Malabes missed a three-point shot and a Rico Maierhofer follow-up was off-target as time expired.

Ateneo alumnus banned

Off the court, the UAAP board issued an unprecedented decision by banning an Ateneo alumnus at the game venue for two years.

The league meted the sanction to Raffy Dayrit, who nearly came to blows with league commissioner Ed Cordero at court-side after the Ateneo-Santo Tomas tussle last Sunday.

La Salle also ended up at the losing end in yesterday's board meeting after the league turned down Brian Ilad's appeal to reconsider his five-game suspension.

The board slapped the penalty on the rookie center for punching University of the East's Mark Fampulme.

The scores:

ATENEO 65—Arao 19, Tiu 14, Bacalao 8, Salamat 8, Al-Hussaini 5, Baldos 4, Barracosa 4, Long 3, Austria 0, Escueta 0, Reyes 0, Laterre 0.

LA SALLE 64—Tang 20, Casio 11, Malabes 7, Villanueva 7, Cua 7, Walsham 5, Atkins 0, Ferdinand 0, Co 0, Barua 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 30-31, 47-52, 65-64



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Rosales-Lascuña shares 4th in World Cup qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia and Thailand lived up to their billing as favorites, firing matching 11-under-par 61s in the fourball format for the joint first-round lead in the Fortis International Challenge on Thursday.

Iain Steel and Airl Rizman shooting 11 birdies for an unblemished card at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club. Thongchai Jaidee contributed eight birdies to boost his Thai partnership with Prayad Marksang.

The Netherlands' Maarten Lafeber and Robert-Jan Derksen overcame a sluggish start to post a 64 for third place while Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña of the Philippines, South Korea's Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho and Chinese Taipei's Lin Wen-tang and Lin Wen-hong carded matching 65s to share fourth.

The top five will earn slots in the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November. Rosales was delighted that the Philippines is in the hunt after the fourball round.

"We didn't have the best of starts but played well on the back nine," he said. "We're only four back. Tony and I struck the ball nicely and



ROSALES

we're looking forward to tomorrow."

First round results (fourball):

61—Malaysia (A. Rizman, I. Steel), Thailand (T. Jaidee, P. Marksang); 64—Netherlands (R.J. Derksen, M. Lafeber); 65—Korea (Lee S.H., Lee S.), Chinese Taipei (Lin W.T., Lin W.H.), RP (T. Lascuña, G. Rosales); 66—New Zealand (R. Lee, S. Schall), Singapore (M. Marnat, Lam C.B.), Pakistan (M. Ahmed, M. Munir), Hong Kong (J. Stewart, Wong W.M.); 67—Switzerland, (M. Rominger, R. Wiederkehr), Asian Tour News

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SPORTS

Invitational tournament to highlight new PBA season

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU—BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL tournament the PBA is committed to supporting in the middle of next year a "third conference" for the season—an invitational tournament—will be held.

Members of the league's board plan into this

gambling mecca of Asia on Tuesday to chart the direction the PBA will take, at least for the next two years, with the invitational all but approved.

The PBA, under commissioner Noli Eala, had adjusted its calendar by holding its season from October to July, instead of the old February to December, after committing itself to supporting the country in international competitions.

It also adopted a two-conference format for the last three seasons to be able to free itself up during the months of August to October every year and lend its players to most of the big Fiba tournaments.

The PBA will throw its support behind the RP team only in 2009, when the qualifying event for the 2010 World Championship is held in Turkey.

The idea of bringing back the old three-conference

format was not tackled at length during the meeting.

It is still not clear, though, what teams from what region the PBA would be inviting. What is certain is that not all 10 teams will play in the invitational.

One idea being considered is for the champion teams of the Philippine and Fiesta Cups to be seeded outright into the invitational and for the stars of the other eight teams to form two more teams.

Red Lions roaring for more

By June Navarro

THERE SEEMS NO DISPELLING TALK OF A developing San Beda dynasty after the Red Lions easily captured their second straight NCAA basketball crown on Wednesday night.

Except for the departure of pro-bound Yousif Almajal and the graduation of Raymond Maggay, the Red Lions' championship core is still intact.

What's ominous for the opposition, led by the Letran Knights whom the Red Lions swept in the Finals, is the fact that San Beda has a pair of battle-ready replacements who could make them even more frightening.

Another Nigerian, aside from the 6-foot-7 Sam Ekwe, and a prolific scorer from the junior ranks will most likely suit up for the Mendiola-based hoopsters next season.

The 6-foot-5 Kevin Udo is another Ekwe in the making and 2006 NCAA juniors Top Rookie-MVP Elvin Pascual has all the tools of a potential San Beda star.

"There are rules to follow and I think we're following those rules to the letter," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim after rewarding his alma mater with its 13th NCAA seniors crown overall.

Lim was referring to Udo's inclusion in the San Beda roster next season.

With Udo and Ekwe together and the 6-4 Pascual giving more depth to Lim's rotation that already has Ogie Menor, Pong Escobal, Borgie Hermida and Jay-R Taganas, the Red Lions look even more formidable.



SAM Ekwe of San Beda easily foils a shot by Reymar Gutiban of Letran in their NCAA title match Wednesday night. The Red Lions went on to clinch a second straight championship.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP jins again in top form, assures coach

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND—THE FOUR-man Philippine taekwondo team hunting for Olympic slots here has quickly acclimated to the 8-degree Celsius weather and, based on its strenuous workout Wednesday, is back in "tip-top condition."

The assessment came from national coach Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz, a three-time World Championship silver medalist and six-time Southeast Asian Games champion, after the Filipinos practiced at the Manchester Velodrome, where all the jins from over 100 countries took turns catching up on their training.

The Philippines is pinning high hopes on the taekwondo jins and the boxers to land the country's first gold medal in the Olympics.

"They are focused and are in tip-top condition," said Cruz of jins Thsomlee Go, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Alexander Briones and Kathleen Eunice Alora. "No problem with the cold weather, either."

Cruz noted that practically all the reigning world champions are here, including the top Chinese Taipei and Croatia bets who are seeing action in Go's -58kg category.

"That's why in (Thursday's) drawing of lots, *wala kang pipilin* (everyone is a contender)," said Cruz. "You have to show your best and your heart because all have the same skills."

And Go is no pushover. The 5-foot-9 Filipino is a silver medalist in the 2001 World Cup, 2000 Asian Championships and 2006 Asian Games. He is also the 2005 Southeast Asian Games champion.

On the way back to the hotel, the 26-year-old Go, the most senior in the squad, offered a prayer at the Manchester Cathedral, next door to the M.E.N. Arena where the World Championships will be held starting Friday.

Go, also the assistant coach of the UST team, said he needs all the help he can get. Despite the odds, Filipinos have performed well in Olympic qualifying tournaments.

After Stephen Fernandez and Bea Lucero bagged bronzes in the 1992 Olympics, when taekwondo was still a demonstration sport, the Philippines successfully fielded bets in the next two Olympiads.

In 2000, Cruz, Donnie Geisler, Eva Marie Ditan and Jasmine Strachan snagged Olympic berths in the Manila qualifier. Geisler, Go and Rivero barged into the 2004 Athens Games,

Pacquiao turns on heat, issues warning

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO yesterday formally turned on the heat and declared that his raging rivalry with Mexican warrior Marco Antonio Barrera could be decided only in actual battle, not through useless chatter.

"*Sa labanan lamang malalaman kung sino talaga ang magaling* (The better fighter could only be decided inside the ring)," Pacquiao told a television interviewer over breakfast as he momentarily turned from puncher to philosopher.

The brief statement could have well tolled the countdown to Pacquiao's Oct. 6 rematch with Barrera, as trainer Freddie Roach wasted no time to make corrective adjustments in defense during an afternoon punching drill.

Pacquiao resumes sparring this afternoon, after he had allowed himself to be tagged with right shots to the head in an eight-round workout against two Mexican fighters the other day.

His dare to settle everything inside

the ring was so far the first uttering on the fight from Pacquiao, who has been training in relative silence, while the Barrera camp regularly issued statements from Guadalajara.

Pacquiao touched on various issues, including politics, during the unscheduled breakfast interview which will be aired over GMA 7.

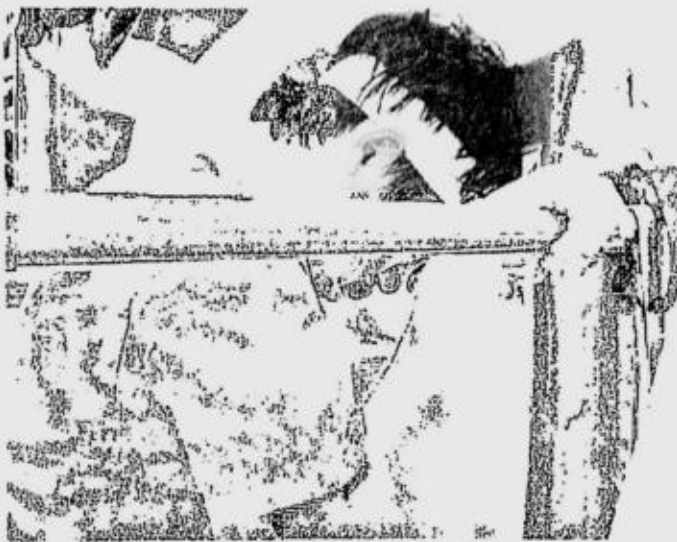
Pacquiao, dusting off jet lag, had a morning nap before returning to the gym, where Roach imparted timely tips on defense, including moves to counter-act foul tactics.

Roach made sure there will be no repeat of the sub-par stance previously displayed by Pacquiao when the Filipino boxing hero resumes sparring today.

Roach had to ask Pacquiao to polish up on defense after the prized warrior got tagged with repeated rights to the head by his two sparmates.

"Yes, we did some defensive drills out there," Roach told the INQUIRER.

Pacquiao's sparring today is part of the remaining tapering off drills before



FILIPINO RING hero Manny Pacquiao pauses for a brief prayer before plunging into another hectic session at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. The Pacman is winding up his training for his Oct. 6 rematch with Marco Antonio Barrera.

MANOLO TRINIDAD

his group heads for Las Vegas in a convoy Monday afternoon.

Meanwhile, physical therapist Jeff Guzman said Pacquiao has visibly adapted to local time and weather after he managed to break into a sweat in less than 10 minutes, unlike last Tuesday

when it took him at least 17 minutes to fully warm up.

De Guzman added that Roach visibly instilled in Pacquiao, a noted clean fighter, ways to offset elbows, headbutts, shoulder shoves and other foul tactics which he could encounter.

Pacman's speed and power will thwart Barrera

By Hermie Rivera

THAT'S MANNY PACQUIAO'S CLEAR intent in crushing Marco Antonio Barrera's October hunt for redemption at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

The Filipino idol is itching to repeat his 11th round stoppage of the Mexican three-time world champ whose recklessness at the Alamodome in San Antonio almost ruined his livelihood.

Makes one wonder why Barrera would want to risk it all again.

But Barrera is one good fighter who is now doing it right.

The ring-savvy Guadalajaran has become attractive to promoters—unbeaten since his Texas collapse, less the theft of his WBC super featherweight

belt he defended against Juan Manuel Marquez at the MGM Grand.

Now, Marco is into a bold experiment—that of engaging the services of Edwin Valero, a Venezuelan lefty who has iced all of his 22 victims (pedicab drivers?).

So far there's been no hints of dis-

COMMENTARY

traction in Marco's preparations.

Nothing vexed Manny's camp either, save for a minor ailment which was readily remedied.

We will know soon if this imported sparmate can deliver for the "assassin" who has been ranting he'll smash the Pacman for avoiding him like the hated tax hound.

Valero must help his new-found *padrino*. Otherwise, Señor Barrera's worst fear of getting kayoed again will happen.

Marco's toughness is a given. But his ability to extricate himself from a Pacquiao-orchestrated bind remains his chief headache as we move closer to the highly awaited classic.

OK, there's a chance the multititled Mex can pull an upset. But he has to negate Manny's speed in the heated exchanges or else a bad loss will mark the end of Barrera as a world-class fighter.

Not an easy task since Marco is up against a master mangler who nearly converted his boxing license into a sales document that permits him to sell pencils in his cozy Guadalajara.

Fight fans generally want to watch

action-sated smokers spiced by punches that twist a fighter's face which their own moms can't recognize.

No problem. In this bout, both combatants are capable of providing one-punch knockouts or the multiblow variety.

There will be more power punches thrown than those executed in their first encounter—making it a compelling theater steeped in high drama.

No title is at stake this time as decreed by the promoters.

The WBC has been imposing its International title belt to extract unjustified sanction fees from the involved fighters.

It's one of the greatest perfdies since the sale of the Brooklyn bridge more than once by con artists in various eras.

Buxton, Anton rule GT series

JONATHAN BUXTON AND CARLOS ANTON survived mechanical problems in the 30-lap final race at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently and emerged winners of the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championship Series.

The MP Turbo tandem led the race when their drive shaft suddenly broke, almost spoiling the pair's title bid with five laps to go.

But Buxton, who took over the wheel from Anton in the last 15 laps, kept his composure and drove conservatively in the remaining laps

to salvage a second-place finish, just enough for the tandem to bag the overall crown.

It was the first major career title for Buxton. For Anton, it was his second national title and 15th career championship.

Raymond Conti and Hender Paul Perez claimed the GT 200 title in one hour, eight minutes and 56.736 seconds, exactly one lap ahead of the Buxton-Anton pair.

Felix Perez and Mato Tan, who dominated the first 21 laps of the race, encountered engine problems and settled for third place.



JONATHAN Buxton tackles the final straight in driving rain to sew up the Petron-San Mig Coffee series title in partnership with Carlos Anton.

SPORTSWATCH

Top players vie for P1.5M in Pacific Poker Palace Cup

A HUNDRED OR SO LOCAL AND FOREIGN players slug it out for top honors in the first Pacific Poker Palace Cup tomorrow at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Billed as one of the mind sport's biggest local tournaments this year, the event dangles a prize pot that could reach P1.5 million with a bigger number of entries.

Ben dela Cruz of PPP said several players have already qualified for the event after advancing from the daily satellite games.

The PPP has already produced several Filipino winners in overseas tournaments.

Among the top Filipinos expected to vie in the PPP Cup are Col. Wally "The Dream" Sombrero; Derick Hernandez, the lone Filipino who reached the final table of the 1st Asia Pacific Poker Tour-Manila leg last August; and Neil Arce, the only Filipino to land in the money circle of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas in June.

'Labanan' on today in Pasay

ANOTHER BIG STAGFEST BILLED AS "Labanan Sa Pasay" 4-stag derby kicks off today at Pasay City Cockpit with an 80-fight program presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

A guaranteed prize of P400,000 is at stake for an entry fee of P11,000.

Members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) as well as breeders groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) and United Gamecock Breeders Association (UGBA) are fielding entries in the derby.

100 fights in Pasig stagfest

THE SHOWDOWN AMONG LEADING derby bidders from Rizal province resumes today at Pasig Square Garden as the second leg of Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA) 4-Stag Derby series unfurls at 1 p.m. with more than 100 fights.

The RGBA executive committee, headed by Manny Barbano and Joey Sy, announced that the RGBA Stag Breeder of the Year will receive P100,000 while the Stag-fighter of the Year gets P50,000.

- Race 1—(Tri)—Mischievous (3), Queen of Gala (2), Play It Again/Mary Jane Bomb (1)
- Race 2—(Or/Tri)—La Tienne (3), Deputy Stravinsky (5), Dacing Polly (6), No Fear (4)
- Race 3—(Or/Tri)—El Cid (4), Anytime Anywhere (6), Kaligatan (2), Risk Taker (5)
- Race 4—(Tri)—Cool Town (3), Lucky Joe (4), Last Hazm (2)
- Race 5—(Or/Tri)—Stoops (7), Kirsten (1), Hickman (6), Dark Desert (5)
- Race 6—(Tri)—Royal Lady Jane (3), Rough Red (2), Great Honor (4)
- Race 7—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Bull Rock (1), Step on the Gas (5), Run Like D'Wind (8), Baling Ganda (6), Danehill Dave (7)
- Race 8—(Or/Tri)—Virginia (6), Mercurio (2), Body Shot (5), Crowning Glory (4)
- Race 9—(Super 8/Or/Tri)—Lady Commander (1), Splendor (2), Windlass (8), Regent Skipper (6), Sports Illustrated (3), Magical Street (5)

BY TOP CHOICE

Darwin caps quest with swift draw



DARWIN Laylo: Philippines' newest Grandmaster

Laylo rises as seventh Pinoy GM

MANDAUE CITY—DARWIN LAYLO THRIVES on challenges.

Slapped with a six-month suspension by the national chess federation, NCFP, for alleged game-fixing, Laylo did not sulk. Instead, he used the time to study more and teach the game to the UST girls' high school team.

Little did Laylo know that the break would serve him well, right in his first comeback tournament—the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship—at the Cebu International Convention here.

With two rounds remaining, the 27-year-old Laylo—youngest of five children of Efren, a former tricycle driver, and Liwayway, a sari-sari store owner in Lipa City—earned his third and final Grandmaster result Thursday.

"Good karma," said Laylo, a business management graduate from San Sebastian College who is an Army private first class. "Naging challenge sa akin ang suspensyon ko (My suspension served as a challenge to me)."

Laylo, the National Open champion in 2004 and 2006, will officially become the country's seventh GM after Eugene Torre, the late Rosendo Balinas Jr., Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, Bong Villamayor, Mark Paragua and Nelson Mariano during the World Chess Federation (Fide) Congress, set Nov. 10-17, in Turkey.

"It's been my dream to become a GM," said Laylo, who learned to play the game from an uncle at five. "I didn't know that it will come this soon. God listened to my prayers."

It was indeed a fast climb to the top for Laylo, who became an IM only last year and earned his first two GM results in the Malaysian Open in August and the Bad Wiessee Open in Germany in October. **Roy Lumarca**

Standings after nine rounds:

7.0 points—Zhang P. (China); 6.5—S. Megaranto (Indonesia), Wang H. (China); 6.0—D. Laylo (RP), Ni H. (China), Zhao J. (China), Wen Y. (China), Liem L.Q. (Vietnam), A. Filippov (Uzbekistan); 5.5—Z. Jianchao (China), A. Kunte (India), L. Chao (China), G. Gopal (India), C. Deepan (India), M. Al-Modiahki (Qatar), D. Neelotpal (India), S. Ganguly (India), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), C. Sandipan (India); 5.0—R. Antonio (RP), O. Dimakiling (RP), U. Adianto (Indonesia), L. Shilong (China), Y. Shaoleng (China), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), T. Batchuluun (Mongolia), M. Mahjoobzardast (Iran), G. Rishi (India); 4.5—W. So (RP), S. Yap (RP), M. Ardesti (Iran), T.H. Thong (Vietnam), P. Negi (India), M. Al-Sayed (Qatar), H. Toufigi (Iran), S. Yang (China), J. Alawi (Iran), N.A. Dung (Vietnam), Zhou W. (China), P. Arun (China), D.D. Trogn (Vietnam); 4.0—E. Torre (RP), M. Paragua (RP), R. Banced (RP), J. Sadorra (RP), H. Nouri (RP), E. Gahemmaghami (Iran), A. Bagheri (Iran), E. Moradiabadi (Iran), P. Ginnath (India), A. Kim (Korea), X. Jun (China) * *unfinished matches*

By Roy Lumarca

MANDAUE CITY—VINDICATION CAME SWIFTLY FOR Darwin Laylo yesterday.

Laylo split the point with Chinese GM Zhao Jun in just 8 moves of a Slav to gain his third and final Grandmaster result in the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

His second draw, coupled with five wins and two losses, gave Laylo 6.0 points after nine rounds and put him in strong contention for a top ten finish and a stint in the Chess World Cup slated in Russia in November.

Knowing that all he needs is a draw to complete his GM requirement, Laylo first offered the truce

after four moves.

Zhao, who shared the eighth-round lead with Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto and countryman GM Zhang Pengxiang at 6.0 points, declined, but later offered to halve the point when Laylo played solidly with white.

The second-seeded Pengxiang, champion of the First President Macapagal-Arroyo Cup last November, trounced Qatari GM Mohammad Al-Modiahki in 56 moves of a Sicilian-Mossolimo variation to emerge solo leader with 7.0 points.

Megaranto also drew with Chinese International Master Wen Yang and was at 6.5 points like Zhao and countryman GM Wang Hao, who downed Indian GM G.N. Gopal (5.5 points).

Top seed GM Ni Hua, boasting an Elo rating of 2681, continued his steady climb by beating Bangladeshi IM Enamul Hossain and catching up with Laylo, Wan and Uzbekistan IM Anton Filippov.

"Ang sarap ng (It's a great) feeling," said Laylo, returning to competitive play after serving a six-month suspension slapped by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for alleged involvement in game-fixing during last year's Tanauan Open.

With his GM status assured, Laylo said his second goal is to finish highly in the 11-round \$40,000 tournament

expectedly being dominated by the Chinese and the Indians.

Laylo won over GMs Chanda Sandipan of India and Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam, Filipinos Rhobel Legaspi and Kim Steven Yap and Mongolian Fide Master Tsegmed Batchuluun. He was beaten by Indonesian GM Utut Adianto and Indian GM Parimarjan Negi and also drew with Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao.

Chinese WGM Shen Yang, the lone female entry, yielded to Indian GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly and stayed at 4.5 points. Ganguly rose to 5.5 points.

Filipino GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio (5.0 points), Eugene Torre (4.0) and Mark Paragua (4) were still tangleling with separate opponents at presstime.

Archers rip 8 RP marks; Javier books Olympic slot

EIGHT NEW PHILIPPINE RECORDS in compound and recurve were established and two others were equaled in the recent 15th Asian Archery Championships in Xian, China.

Five of the marks were set and one was tied in the compound division, where Earl Yap and the women's team of Jennifer Chan, Abigail Tindugan and Amaya Paz bagged a gold medal each while the rest were recorded in the recurve.

Chan tied the 117-point mark set by Paz in February 2006 in the 12-arrow final match in women's compound while Javier matched the 323 posted by Clint Sayo in the Singapore SEA Games in 1993 in the men's 36 final match.

Mark Javier became the lone Filipino qualifier to the Beijing Olympics next year.

Javier defeated India's Mangal Singh, 111-107, to rule the Continental Qualification Tournament. He ousted Singapore's Bensong Ong, 112-99, Japan's Asiano Ryota, 104-102, (quarterfinals) and Malaysia's Wan Mohdhamimizab Ab Aziz, 107-106 (semifinals).

The new compound marks follow:

677 points by Chan in women's Fita 70 meters, surpassing the 675 of Paz set in February 2005 in Bangkok; 2010 by the women's team of Chan, Tindugan and Paz in the 70m team qualification round (old mark of 1968 was set by Chan, Paz and Joann Tabaña in February 2005, Bangkok); 227 by Tindugan, Chan and Paz in the 4x6 women's team match event (old mark of 222 was set by Paz, Tindugan, Chan and Tabanag in September 2006 in Shanghai); 450 by Tindugan, Chan and Paz in 2x24 women's team match event (old mark of 421 was set by Paz, Tindugan, Chan and Tabanag in September 2006); and 350 by Yap in men's 70m (old mark of 345 was set by Yap set in July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur).

The new recurve records follow:

652 points by Mark Javier in Fita 70-meter men's division surpassing the 633 set by Florante Matan and Marvin Cordero in 2004 and 2003 in Bangkok; 1934 by Javier, Matan and Cordero in Fita 70-m team qualification round (old mark is 1850 by Matan, Nerickson Fraginal and Cordero set in 2004 in Bangkok); and 217 by Javier, Cordero and Matan in 4x6 men's team event (old mark is 197 set by Javier, Paul Marton dela Cruz, Christian Cubilla and Renato Bartolome in Kuala Lumpur in 2006).

Masters Challenge on today at S'woods

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS LADIES CHAPTER is hosting the 11th Masters Challenge, a fund-raising program for the group's annual medical mission, today at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Manila Southwoods chair Robert John Sobrepena will lead the ceremonial tee-off in the morning then join 144 players in the hunt for the individual trophies and other prizes at stake.

In addition, Pacsports-Nike Golf will be sponsoring a pitching contest for the early registrants before the shotgun tee-off at 8:30 a.m.

A Chery Car from Autohub Group, a South Sea Pearl Jewelry set from Jeweler, a cruise from Royal Caribbean International and a three-day in Boracay's Asya Resort are the hole-in-one prizes.

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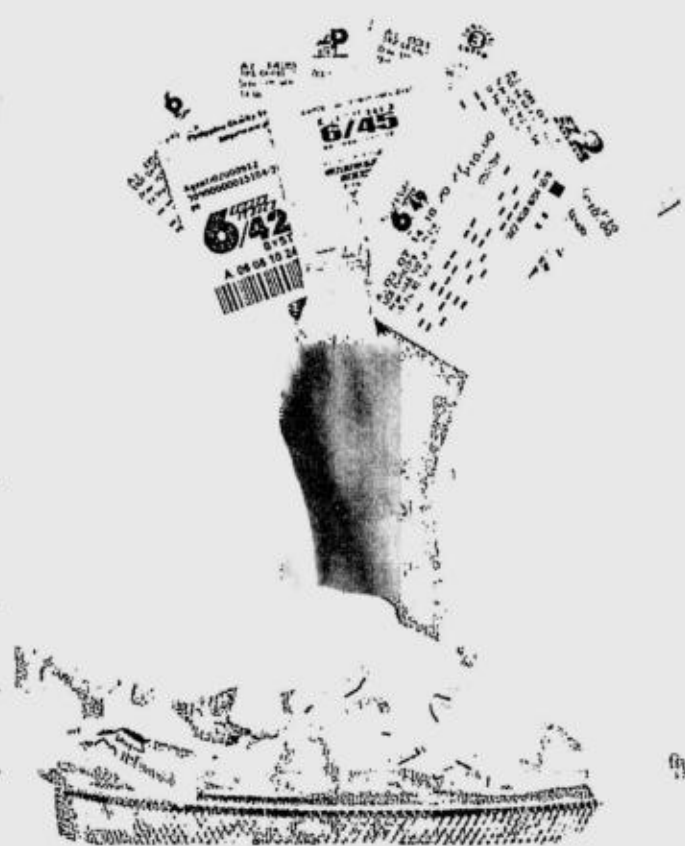
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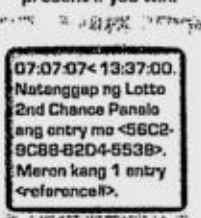
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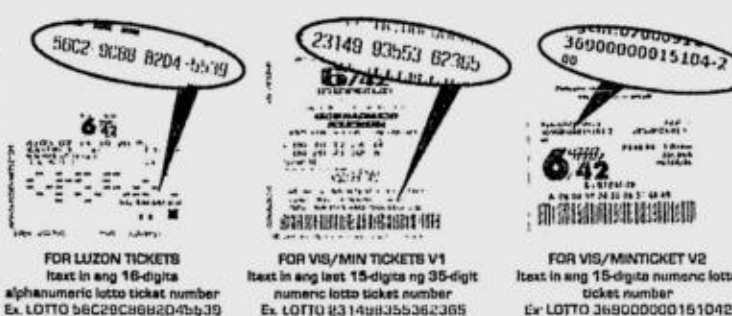
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

SPORTS

Injured Roddick pulls out of Thailand Open

BANGKOK, THAILAND—ANDY RODDICK WITHDREW WITH A FOOT injury and Tomas Berdych beat local Kittipong Wachiramanowong, 6-3, 6-0, Wednesday at the Thailand Open. Roddick injured his foot during practice Tuesday and pulled out of his match against Wang Yeu-tzuoo. **AP**

Yanks make playoffs

Oust defending AL champion Detroit

Giants unload Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY Bonds played his final home game as a San Francisco Giant on Wednesday, but the San Diego Padres stole the thunder from baseball's home run king.

The Padres remained at the forefront of the National League wild card race by rolling to an 11-3 victory in the Giants' last home game of the season, which drew a sellout crowd of 42,926.

The fans were treated to highlights from the seventh NL Most Valuable Player Bonds on the scoreboard between innings.

Bonds went 0-for-3 on the night. He did give the crowd one more thrill when he slammed a 2-0 pitch to deep right-center, but it did not have the distance as Brady Clark gloved it on the warning track to end the sixth. **AFP**

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.—CHAMPAGNE FLOWED. Joe Torre cried. The New York Yankees whooped it up.

Celebrating clinching wins never gets old, even when you've made the postseason for 13 seasons in a row.

Torre shed tears Wednesday night after the Yankees clinched at least a wild-card berth with a 12-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays that capped a comeback from a huge early season deficit.

"Who knows? This could be his last time in," center fielder Johnny Damon said. "We're hoping not. You have to savor every moment. Enjoy it. The team we have now, where we came from, being way back, we couldn't be happier. We have a World Series to win, but this thing is really special."

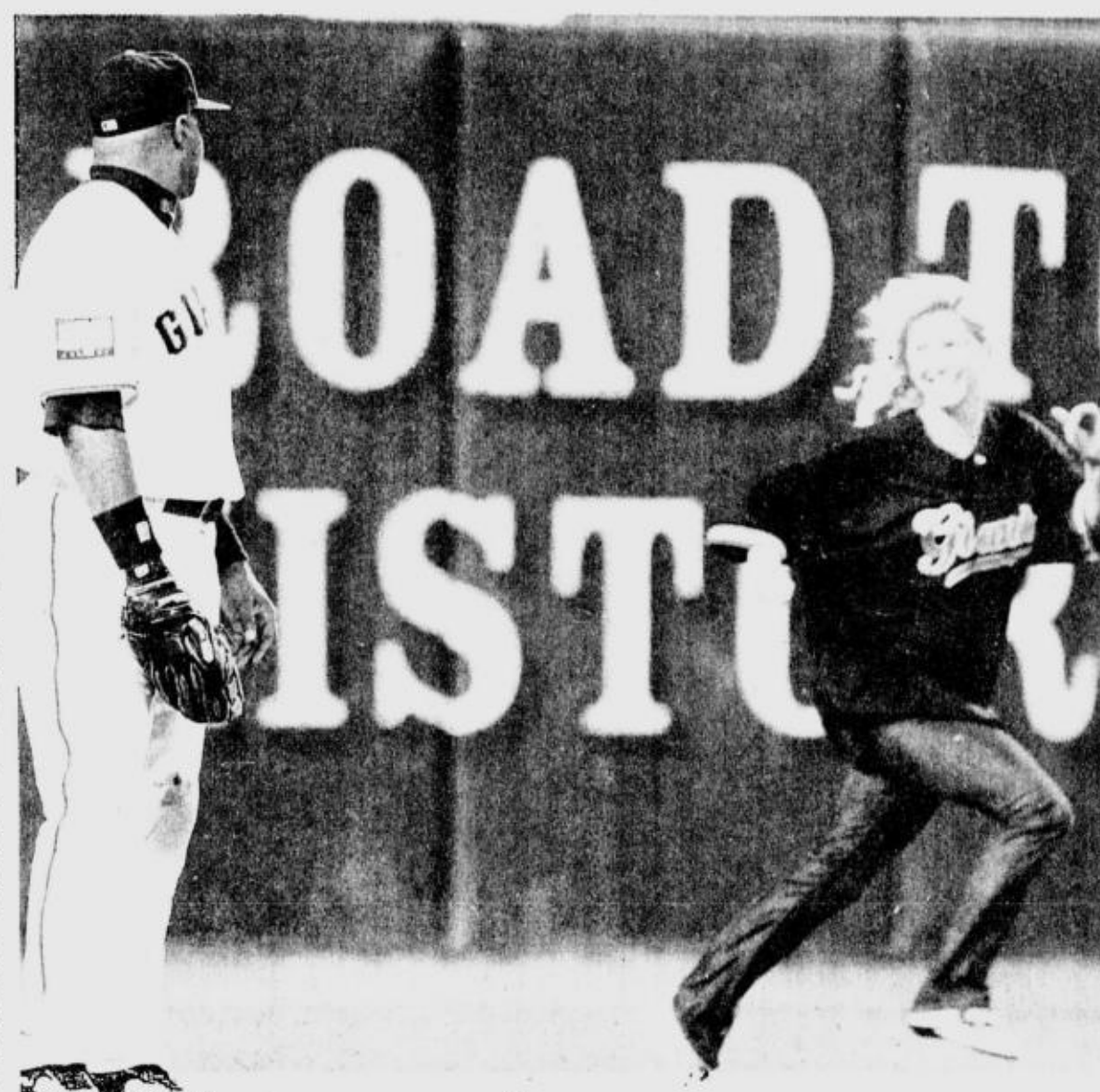
Elated owner George Steinbrenner even got into the act, making a rare ballpark appearance. He kicked off the celebration when he moved to the front row of his private suite, where he could interact with fans.

The victory, New York's 15th in 20 games, eliminated defending AL champion Detroit from postseason contention and set up a probable first-round match-up with Cleveland, the Central champion. The Yankees are three games behind Boston with four games left, so New York's streak of nine consecutive AL East titles is likely to end.

New York, just 21-29 before play on May 30, has gone 70-38 since then. Players, from Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez, to Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, hugged each other on the field and in the dugout following the final out.

"This is what it was about. It was a lot of unselfishness," Torre said. "There were a lot of guys who played through some injuries, played through some fatigue. And, of course, Alex—we sort of rallied around him."

The Yankees have made the playoffs every year since 1995, and their streak of 13 consecutive trips is one shy of the record set by the Atlanta Braves from 1991-2005. They've made the postseason in all 12 seasons under Torre. **AP**



A FAN gets one last close look at Barry Bonds in a San Francisco Giants uniform in the sixth inning of a match against the San Diego Padres. Three security guards led the woman out of the field. **AFP**

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston Red Sox (1)	94	64	.595	--
x-New York Yankees	91	67	.576	3.0
Toronto Blue Jays	81	77	.513	13.0
Baltimore Orioles	67	91	.424	27.0
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	65	93	.411	29.0

CENTRAL

-Cleveland Indians	94	64	.595	--
Detroit Tigers	87	72	.547	7.5
Minnesota Twins	77	81	.487	17.0
Chicago White Sox	69	89	.437	25.0
Kansas City Royals	68	90	.430	26.0

WEST

-Los Angeles Angels	92	67	.579	--
Seattle Mariners	84	74	.532	7.5
Oakland Athletics	75	84	.472	17.0
Texas Rangers	75	84	.472	17.0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York Mets (4)	87	71	.551	--
Philadelphia Phillies	86	72	.544	1.0
Atlanta Braves	83	75	.525	4.0
Washington Nationals	72	87	.453	15.5
Florida Marlins	68	90	.430	19.0

CENTRAL

Chicago Cubs (3)	83	75	.525	--
Milwaukee Brewers	81	77	.513	2.0
St. Louis Cardinals	74	84	.468	9.0
Cincinnati Reds	71	87	.449	12.0
Houston Astros	70	88	.443	13.0
Pittsburgh Pirates	68	90	.430	15.0

WEST

West	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona Diamondbacks (4)	88	70	.557	--
San Diego Padres	87	71	.551	1.0
Colorado Rockies	86	72	.544	2.0
Los Angeles Dodgers	80	78	.506	8.0
San Francisco Giants	70	89	.440	18.5

Marion tells Suns:

Release me, let me go
PHOENIX—PHOENIX SUNS FORWARD Shawn Marion, the team's highest-paid player and a four-time All-Star, says he wants to be traded after eight years with the club. He said he decided to ask to leave because the team considered trading him over the summer and won't talk about a contract extension. "I'm tired of hearing my name in trades," said Marion, who has two years left on his contract, which will net him \$16.4 million this season. **AP**



TIGER Woods and partner Charles Howell **AP**

MONTREAL—WORLD NUMBER one Tiger Woods has been paired with good friend Charles Howell III for Thursday's opening foursomes at the seventh Presidents Cup.

The United States duo will take on South Korea's K.J. Choi and Australian left-hander Nick O'Hern of the Internationals in the last match out at Royal Montreal Golf Club.

Woods and Howell played together on four occasions at the 2003 Presidents Cup in South Africa, winning twice and losing twice.

"He's a great partner to have because we are friends," Howell told reporters at Royal Montreal. **Reuters**

"Maybe in a sense I see Tiger in a little different light. I see him a little bit away from the golf course."

Howell has struggled for consistency on the 2007 PGA Tour after a storming start that featured a victory at the Nissan Open.

"I felt like if somebody was going to pull Charles up, it would be Tiger," said US captain Jack Nicklaus. Woods' performances at four Presidents Cups do not reflect his status as perhaps the greatest player in history with a win-loss-half record of 10-9-1.

He has especially struggled in the fourball format where he is an uninspiring 2-6-0.

"When you play poorly in this event it is different than what we do every week because, if anything, you just let down yourself and your family and that's about it," Woods said. **Reuters**

Winless Japan exits Rugby W. Cup

BORDEAUX—JAPAN BOWED out of the World Cup without winning a game but confident it had provided a lasting legacy for the future of Asian rugby.

Japan is bidding to bring the World Cup to Asia in 2015 and while it failed to win a match in France, it was far from disgraced and hope its performances will be enough to convince the International Rugby Board to let it host the tournament.

In Saint-Etienne, Samoa ended a five-match losing streak by beating United States, 25-21, in its final Group A match.

Samoa, which made the quarterfinals in 1991 and '95, lost its last two games in 2003 and its first three in '07.

In Lens, Georgia romped to its first World Cup victory with a 30-0 triumph over Namibia to make sure it won't finish last in Group D.

Inquirer Wires

Beckham goes home

LONDON—ENGLISH FOOTBALL icon David Beckham was heading home from Los Angeles after his father suffered a serious heart attack in London. Ted Beckham, 59, was being treated in a London hospital after being taken ill late Wednesday. The former England captain and family moved to California in July when Beckham joined the LA Galaxy club. **AFP**

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BROKERS discuss the day's trade on the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City. Stock markets across Asia yesterday logged record highs with financial stocks leading and the dollar steadying amid signs of stabilization in money and credit markets. REUTERS

Stocks rally to 8-week high

Across Asia, stock markets powered to record peaks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE STOCK MARKET surged to its highest close in eight weeks, buoyed by bets of another US interest rate cut after US consumer durable goods declined in August, rekindling worries over an economic slowdown in the United States.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index surged 101.76 points or 2.92 percent to 3,577.51.

This was the index's highest level since July 27 when it finished at 3,518.76, data from the PSE showed.

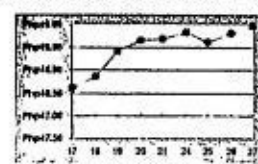
The peso yesterday strengthened to 45.01 against the dollar, according to the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. Last Wednesday, the peso closed at 45.17.

All sectors rallied, with Wall Street's overnight gains and positive economic indicators here also boosting investor confidence, dealers said.

The broader all-shares market rose 2.76 percent or 59.8 points to 2,222.80. Among sectors, the property index posted the biggest gains at 4.57 percent yesterday, or 70.2 points

STOCKS/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES

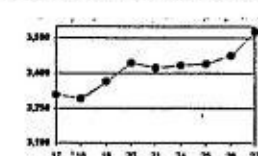


SEPTEMBER PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P45.01 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B7)

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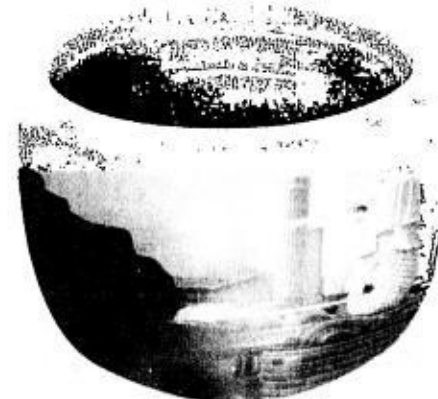
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Senate to look into Pall Mall tax matter

Solon says agency ought to collect, not forego, revenue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SENATE WILL CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION into allegations of corruption, involving the decision of the Department of Finance to impose a lower excise tax on British American Tobacco's Pall Mall cigarettes.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said that he, together with Sen. Francis Escudero III, would lead the Senate in conducting the inquiry, the schedule of which has yet to be determined.

"What you should do is to make an interpretation of the law that is in favor of revenue collection and not revenue foregoing," Enrile told DOF officials yesterday during a hearing on the proposed DOF budget for 2008.

Enrile was referring to the Sin Tax law of 2005, which prohibits a reclassification of a cigarette brand into a lower tax bracket. Pall Mall has been paying a tax of P6.74 per pack.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued a ruling in February raising the tax rate on Pall Mall to P26 per pack. The increase in the tax, however, was not implemented because the DOF, mother agency of the BIR, immediately reversed the ruling in response to an appeal made by British American Tobacco.

The BIR had said the higher tax rate should apply because Pall Mall was being imported by duty-free shops. Under the Sin Tax law, imported cigarettes are levied the highest excise tax rate to offset the revenue loss arising from their duty exemption.

But BAT said domestically produced Pall Mall were already in the market, even before duty-free shops started importing the brand. BAT also said the importation of Pall Mall ended last year. These arguments helped BAT win the favor of the DOF. But Enrile said the DOF's decision did not reflect its mandate to help increase the government's tax collection.

"Why did you (DOF) not let them (BAT) go to court and question the BIR ruling, instead of doing an administrative effort to reduce your tax take?" Enrile asked.

The senator stressed that the Sin Tax law prohibits the downward tax reclassification of a cigarette brand precisely to prevent manufacturers from engaging in market maneuvering and evade paying higher taxes.

Competitors of BAT said the decision of the DOF would confuse the excise tax system if Pall Mall cigarettes are again imported. The competitors—including Philip Morris, Fortune Tobacco, Japan Tobacco International and Anglo-American Tobacco—appealed to the DOF to reconsider its decision.

EDC draws up wish list of laws

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT Council on Wednesday pushed for a wish list of new laws that would help exporters sustain growth and ward off threats to their competitiveness amid a strong peso.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, who chairs the EDC where the private sector is represented, said that while Malacañang has taken efforts to support local exporters, decisive measures to address the sector's concerns still lay in the hands of Congress.

Speaking before a general membership meeting of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Favila said the EDC was urging Congress to act on four measures that would benefit exporters.

These include a law that amends Republic Act No. 6977, or the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises.

Proposed amendments pending in both the Senate and the House

of Representatives cover the adoption of more specific definitions of micro, small and medium enterprises, which would increase the mandatory allocation of lending to MSMEs.

Currently, micro enterprises are defined as those with total assets of up to P3 million; small ones, with total assets between P3 million and P15 million; and medium ones, P15 million to P100 million.

Other proposed changes to the magna carta provide for enhanced support from government agencies and the formalization of the MSME Development Plan; organizational and financial strengthening of the Small Business and Guarantee Finance Corp.; and limiting the means by which banks could avoid compliance with the requirement to lend to MSMEs.

Favila said another law that the EDC was pushing for was one that puts up an Omnibus Maritime Code which would ensure that comprehensive action of

various government and private sectors concerned would be coordinated.

He explained that an OMC would drive down the cost of exporting from the Philippines, which are "at a high end" compared to costs incurred in other capital cities of Southeast Asia.

A third law in the EDC's wish list is one that amends certain provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1464 or the Tariff Code.

Favila said the EDC has recommended changes to the Tariff Code that would help curb smuggling.

Finally, he said the EDC was urging Congress to ratify the Revised Kyoto Convention, which serves as a guide on best practices that promote improvements in the procedures and controls governing the movement of goods across borders.

"I call on industry associations to support the EDC's legislative blueprint by studying these proposed laws and help (us) prepare policy briefs," Favila said.

Canadian firm reports positive mine prospects

By Amy R. Remo

CANADIAN MINING FIRM OLYMPUS Pacific Minerals Inc. has completed due diligence of its Capcapo Project in the Baguio-Mankayan Gold district.

The Baguio-Mankayan mine reportedly holds some 60 million ounces of historic production and current resources.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Abra Mining and Industrial Corp said its partner, Olympus, found the due diligence drilling program "encouraging."

It added that "geologists believe there is a potential for a significant discovery at the Capcapo gold property," which was earlier found to have similarities, in terms of copper and gold deposits, with the Baguio mine.

The disclosure also stated that Olympus is set to complete formal joint venture documentation as well as fulfill its legal, social and community responsibilities.

Abra added that Olympus will continue exploration drilling once all outstanding agreements and legal parameters are signed with various stakeholders.

For 2007, Olympus' projects consisted of step-out drilling designed to expand the mineralized zone, as well as ground exploration programs to test other prospective areas on the 43-square-kilometer Capcapo property.

Seipi seeks reduction of royalties on natural gas

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is urging the government to reduce royalties imposed on natural gas, explaining that this will ultimately lead to lower power rates.

Seipi chair Arthur Young said the current royalties scheme was skewed in a way that favored coal-fired power generation over gas-fired power production, which used indigenous gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-

to-Power Project in offshore Palawan.

"It's too expensive, the royalties imposed on natural gas," Young said. "And this is considering that the government is pushing the use of indigenous fuel. The royalty tax on coal is much lower, even if it's an imported fuel. The tax for natural gas should be lower."

He said lower royalties on natural gas should also translate to lower power rates, particularly in Luzon, since the country's three gas-fired power plants were supplying some of the supply requirements of the Manila Electric Co.,

the country's largest distribution utility.

"The royalties represent a significant amount that could be given back to industries in the form of lower power rates," he said. "We've already proposed (the lowering of royalties on natural gas) and we continue to discuss this. We understand that this will be a big revenue loss to the government, but there may be ways to balance this out."

Former Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla had said late last year that the government was looking at reducing royalties imposed on natural gas, with

the objective of bringing down power rates for consumers.

He said the country currently imposes "more generous" natural gas royalties compared to its neighbors in Southeast Asia.

"Nevertheless, we will continue to look at those numbers and we will have to coordinate with the Department of Finance regarding the possible reduction of the royalties," he said. "If ever, we want to make sure that there is direct reduction for the consumers and that it will be a significant one."

Stocks rally to 8-week high

to 1,606.20.

Value turnover reached P5.9 billion. There were 96 gainers and 25 losers, while 47 stocks remained flat.

According to Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas, speculation is rife that there may be another round of interest

rate cuts when the US Fed holds its policy meeting in October.

"The market is betting another 25-basis-point cut," Roxas said.

Across Asia, stock markets yesterday also powered to record highs, with financial stocks leading a 2.4-percent

From page B1

gain in Tokyo, while the dollar steadied amid signs of stabilization in money and credit markets.

"The whole credit crisis is a dim and distant memory in most investors' minds," said Brian Eley of Eley Griffiths Group Pty Ltd. in Sydney. Not that the

problems have gone away, but the fear of the problems has gone away."

The MSCI's broadest index of Asian markets outside Japan rose 1.7 percent to a life high and has risen by a third this year. With reports from Reuters, AFP AP

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Mercedes-Benz

Saudi pledges help for halal certification

By Judy Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A SAUDI BUSINESSMAN engaged in the trading of food products has pledged to help Mindanao poultry and meat industry players secure halal certification.

Vicente Lao, chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MinBC), said in a briefing here that Shiek Faeyez Hamed Zainy had also pledged to bring in halal process experts from Saudi Arabia in November.

Zainy, who owns the Abbar & Zainy Corp., said that the experts are also involved in the issuance of halal certificates in the oil-rich kingdom, according to Lao.

"The said personalities are the ones who are issuing halal certification in [Saudi Arabia]," Lao said. "If they approve the halal certification procedure in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Abbar & Zainy Corp. will buy halal products from here."

Lao said Zainy would talk with the Saudi ambassador about his plan to bring halal experts to the Philippines. "Zainy assured [us that he will help] solve the [halal certification] problem in three months," Lao added.

Mindanao businessmen engaged in poultry and cattle processing have not been able to tap the halal market because they lacked the certification, which would prove that their products were prepared in accordance with Muslim standards.

Only products certified as halal are deemed "permissible" for devout Muslims to consume.

Lao said Zainy's efforts to help Mindanao animal growers get halal certification could help boost the island's poultry and meat industry.

He added that it is a good time for the export business because Mindanao has not been hit by bird flu, unlike other Asian countries.

Wind farms eyed for Catanduanes town

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—The local government of San Andres in the island province of Catanduanes has joined the race to develop renewable energy resources through its proposed development of a wind farm in Barangay Agojo.

Mayor Leo Z. Mendoza signed last Sept. 5 a memorandum of agreement with Linkpoint-Europe, a Spanish wind power company with an office in China, and PhilCarbon Inc., which will undertake the feasibility study for the multimillion-peso project.

Linkpoint-Europe was represented by its managing partner, Juan Gutierrez Canseco, while San Andres-

born lawyer Jose G. Samonte signed on behalf of PhilCarbon as its president.

The brief signing ceremony at the municipal hall was witnessed by PhilCarbon partner Robert Owen, Vice Mayor Alan del Valle and members of the Sangguniang Bayan.

With the deal, the municipality and its partners are the fourth entity to seriously consider development of renewable power sources on the island.

The First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ficelco) is already in the late stages of securing government approval for its proposal to develop the 3.5-megawatt minihydroelectric plant in Barangay

Dugui Too in the hinterlands of the capital town.

The Sunwest Water and Electricity Co. is also interested in putting up six similar plants, two of which are expected to be on stream by 2012.

On the other hand, the provincial government headed by Governor Joseph C. Cua, who is a brother-in-law of Mendoza, is reportedly bent on the so-called Bactot Water and Power Development Project, also in Virac.

This entails the construction of two hydro-power plants in upland Virac and the use of the water to supply the needs of Virac and the nearby towns of Bato and San Miguel.

Mendoza said that, under the agreement, the three parties signified their intent to develop, finance, design, construct and operate a wind farm facility.

The technical and financial viability of the project will be determined within 18 months, during which the municipality will apply for a grant with the Fondo de Estudios de Viabilidad, a credit facility of the Fondo de Ayuda al Desarrollo of the Spanish government.

Linkpoint will advise the municipality on complying with the grant conditionalities and interfacing with the Spanish Ministry of Industry, if needed. *Fernan Gananan, Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau*



IF FOUND FEASIBLE, another wind power the country's pioneer wind energy venture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

VIGILANCE MAY RESULT IN VICTORY, and lack of it often leads to defeat.

This happened in the antismuggling fight waged by the farmers. It may happen again in the next two weeks at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Antismuggling

Vigilant farmer leaders, such as John Kim and Alfred Alangdeo, spearheaded antismuggling efforts, which resulted in the decrease of smuggling rate in Metro Manila from 40 percent to 1 percent.

Subsequently, Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition, of which Kim and Alangdeo are part of, became one of two permanent private sector representatives in the Cabinet Oversight

Committee on Anti-Smuggling (Cocas).

They succeeded in making the Inward Forward Manifest (IFM) available to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other private sector representatives.

The IFM lists the products being imported, the ship being used, and date of arrival. Previously, only the Bureau of Customs (BOC) had access to the list. But through the farm leaders efforts, the IFM became available to other parties.

Armed with the information culled from the IFM, the Cocas under then DILG Secretary Angelo Reyes achieved "the most dramatic and successful antismuggling results in the last 20 years," according to Federation of Philippine Industries president Jess Arranza.

But after a while, the private sector partners relaxed their vigilance and soon,

without warning, the Cocas was abolished.

IFM access was again limited to the BOC. Predictably, smuggling activities again increased, causing our government to lose an estimated P80 billion in foregone revenue.

When asked if procedures, such as the destruction of smuggled cars, were effective in the campaign against smuggling, many advocates would say, "crushing a few cars is not the answer ... it's the IFM, stupid!"

But perhaps the antismuggling advocates were partly to blame. They were not vigilant enough to prevent the termination of access to the IFM.

During the past week, we called on DA and DTI officials, who confirmed that neither agencies had access to the IFM. This has been going on for over three years now.

Last year, the Alyansa Agrikultura won two significant victories at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) because of their vigilance.

Both had to do with DENR orders that were signed by a previous secretary.

COMMENTARY

The first had with an order to automatically cancel all Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) started during the Ramos administration. CFMAs were issued by the government to get communities to take responsibility of protecting the forest mangrove plantations, as well as livelihood to residents. The CFMA covered 200,000 hectares of coastal mangrove and 1.9 million hectares of upland forest. Vigilant farmer leaders met with DENR Secretary Reyes and turned

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In celebration of its 10th Year Anniversary, Canon is giving 10 lucky winners each month a holiday trip AND a digital camera or camcorder to take along! Just buy any participating Canon product from September to January. Promo is open to both consumers and corporate accounts.

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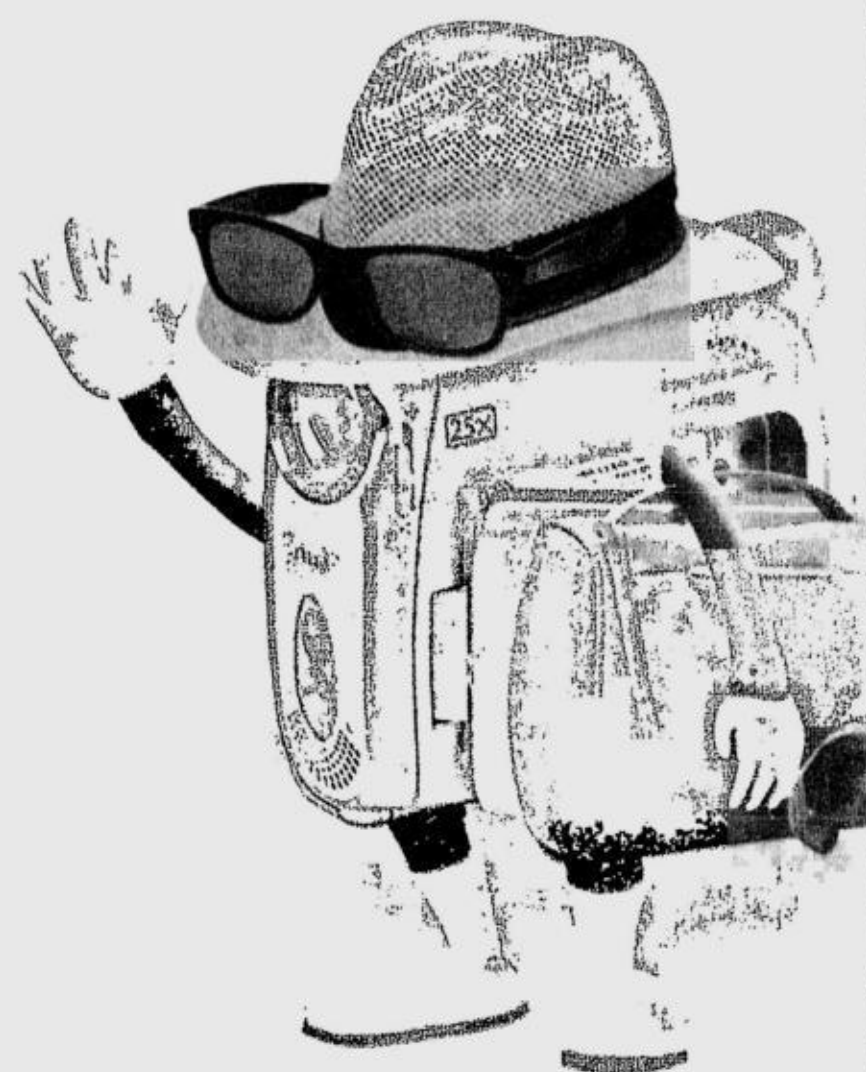
Monthly raffle draws will be held on:
October 31, November 30 and December 31.
Grand raffle draw will be held on February 15, 2008.

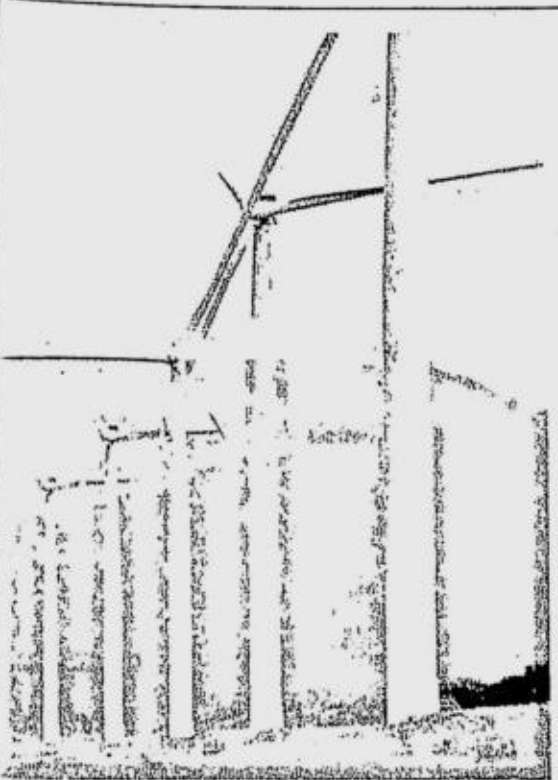
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project would rise in Catanduanes province, like in Bangui Bay in Ilocos Norte, pictured here. AFP

DTI steps up drive against red tape

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND Industry's units in the provinces are stepping up the campaign to cut red tape after its Leyte office was awarded "best in reforms" among sub-national government agencies in Asia.

The citation, called Best Sub-National Reform in Asia 2006, was given out by the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development to DTI-Leyte for the successful efforts of streamlining the process for business permits and licensing (BPL) in Ormoc City.

With help from the German Technical Cooperation's Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (GTZ-Smedsep), the local government of Ormoc has reduced the BPL from 17 steps to only five.

Processing time was also cut from

Provincial units urged to reform after Leyte office earns accolades

17 days to two, as the the number of required documents were halved from 12 to six.

The DCED, comprised of development agencies involved in international cooperation initiatives, is behind the awards program called "Excellence in Business Environment Reform," which recognizes excellence in high-impact, sustainable and coordinated donor support for reforms in the business environment.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the achievement of the department's Leyte office is a model for all DTI units to follow.

Favila said DTI-Leyte beat out best practice entries of other Asian countries

in the sub-national category for the impact of its reform project on business registration in Ormoc in encouraging more business activities in the city.

He explained that good practices in BPL include making business registration as simple and short as possible; convening all offices involved in the BPL process in one location and computerization.

Good practices also involve developing multi-sectoral alliances to achieve a common goal or improve performance; informing potential and existing customer about the requirements, procedures, and renewal process; and obtaining client feedback and providing amenities as well as training staff to

provide excellent customer service.

Favila said that due to the simplified process of business licensing in Ormoc City, the number of business registrants increased by a quarter in 2006 compared to the previous year.

Also, the improved system brought Ormoc City's revenues from business licenses to P21.16 million, helping the local government improve social services aimed at the reduction of poverty incidence.

"Duplication of this feat in all government offices would surely encourage more investments in the country, Favila said.

"The simplified transaction process would, in turn, reduce corruption and speed up the creation of new businesses in the country," said Favila, who is also chair of the Anti-Red Tape Task Force.

Favila said the experience of Ormoc City was now a documented good practice in streamlining business permits and licensing, which can be replicated in other LGUs.

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with a copy of an INQUIRER story "DENR rushing in the wrong direction" which came out in Jan. 28, 2006. The leaders successfully convinced the DENR chief to suspend the order. Due process was then followed.

The second order that had also been suspended was the Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage. In the Feb. 17, 2006 story, "Useless costs kill jobs," which appeared in the INQUIRER, it was explained that the mandate entailed additional costs to be added to already sufficient insurance coverage provided by the government's Energy Guarantee Fund. What made the order all the more suspicious was that, only one company was identified by the DENR to be utilized, creating a monopoly. What was doubly insulting was that the selected firm had outstanding accounts amounting to mil-

lions of pesos being investigated by the Insurance Commission.

Vigilance needed

Today, our sources at the DENR are saying that both suspended orders may soon be activated by DENR Secretary Lito Atienza. It is now up to farmers to step up their vigilance, lest their hard-earned victories turn into defeat. It is also hoped that Atienza himself will be on his guard against unscrupulous forces who may feed him misleading information. This may result, not only in the defeat of farmers, but of the nation as well.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K. 75	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 25, 2007	Last Week September 18, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.63300	1.62274
Managed Fund - Peso	1.89463	1.86718
Growth Fund - Peso	1.82422	1.76350
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4057	1.3949

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE		Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
UNIT PRICES (in Php)		Sept. 24, 2007	Sept. 17, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.295335	1.288164	
Balanced Fund	1.446703	1.423441	
Equity Fund	1.705600	1.658722	

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission. The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PT KALBE FARMA TBK Unit 13-B Chatham House, Valero cor. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Bambang Indonesian	Area Manager
PT KALBE FARMA TBK Unit 13-B Chatham House, Valero cor. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Maret Yudianto Indonesian	Country Manager
PROV INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES), INC. 37/F GT International Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City	Prakhar Piyush Saxena Indian	Lead Development Engineering Consultant
PROV INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES), INC. 37/F GT International Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City	Santosh Damodar Shinde Indian	Network Engineering Consultant
NYX SPA 2/F Makati Palace Hotel P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Su Hyung Noh Korean	Manager
NYX SPA 2/F Makati Palace Hotel P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Yongcheol Jung Korean	Supervisor
LSJ2000 ENTERPRISES, INC. 136 Timog Ave., Quezon City	Byeong Ho Kwon Korean	Operation Manager
LSJ2000 ENTERPRISES, INC. 136 Timog Ave., Quezon City	Seungjin Lee Korean	General Manager
SONVA, INC. 104 Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	David Charles Griffiths Canadian	Chef
ANDO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 19B Chatham House Bldg., 116 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Seiki Taniguchi Japanese	Construction Engineer
MULTICO PRIME POWER, INC. 7797 St. Paul Rd., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Victor Tjeng Blauw The Indonesian	President & General Manager
CHIZZY AMUSEMENT CORP. Unit 101-102 Sherwood Place, 2262 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Lucas Michael lyke Nigerian	Operations Manager
LEARNINGLITZ, INC. Rm. 209-215 Peninsula Court, 8735 Makati Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Michael David Stevens Canadian	Full-Time English Instructor
TAKENAKA CORPORATION - PHIL. BRANCH 18/F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Daisuke Fukamachi Japanese	Corporate Representative
NCT TRANSNATIONAL CORP. G/F NYK Harbor Ctr., Bldg. I, Railroad cor. 23rd & 24th Sts., Port Area, Manila	Naoto Makiyama Japanese	Business Development Manager
PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP. 4/F Coretown Bldg., 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Sungsun Yang Korean	Asst. Operation Manager
PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP. 4/F Coretown Bldg., 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Minjin Park Korean	Sales Manager
MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENGINE SYSTEM PHILIPPINES, INC. Warehouse 4C Sunblest Comp., Km. 23 West Service Rd., Bo. Cupang, Muntinlupa City	Kingo Ishigami Japanese	Technical Consultant
FIRST ADVANTAGE PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F The Paragon Corporate Centre, Industry St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Wichit Wungkeeree Thai	Screening Associate - Multilingual
IBM SOLUTIONS DELIVERY, INC. 5/F IBM Plaza, 8 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Anjan Majumdar Indian	Director and Leader
TOKIO MARINE MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. 3rd, 6th & 7th Fls., Y Tower II LP Leviste cor. Gallardo Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hiroshi Nishioka Japanese	Vice President
CONNECTIVITY FACTORS AND ACCESS, INC. 20/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jinwoo Choi Korean	Customer Service
9 MING GOAL, INC. Unit 8-A Marvin Plaza Bldg., Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City	Ngai Sing Wong Chinese	Operations Manager
WORLD NEWS PUBLICATION CORP. 578 T. Pinpin St., Binondo, Manila	Chi Cheung Johnny Chan Chinese	Mandarin Language Translator
POWER LANGUAGE INT'L CENTER 15/F Goldloop Tower A, Amber Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Beomyong Kim Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-September 28, 2007)

Customs seeking flexibility in setting revenue target

Goal should be based on peso-dollar rate, says Morales

By Michelle V. Remo

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER NAPOLEON Morales has asked for more flexibility in setting the bureau's collection target for next year given the continued strengthening of the peso against the US dollar.

Morales yesterday said on the sidelines of the Senate hearing on the proposed 2008 budget of the Department of Finance, the BOC's mother agency, that it would be "unfair" to expect the BOC to meet its 2008 collection target if the peso would keep on appreciating.

Morales explained that the BOC loses an estimated P2.2 billion in potential revenue for every unit of peso appreciation, for example, when the peso strengthens from 46 to 45 to the dollar.

For this year, BOC was tasked to collect P228.2 billion, but this was based on the assumption that the peso would average at 48-50 to the dollar.

The peso, however, has remained within the 45-to-a-dollar territory, which partly explains why the bureau fell short of its collection target for the first half.

In July and August, the BOC met its collection targets. It still has to exceed its targets for the remaining months of the year

for it to meet its full-year goal of P228.2 billion.

For next year, the BOC is tasked to collect even more import taxes at P254.5 billion, consistent with the national government's goal of balancing its budget after a decade of being in the red.

The BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are the two biggest revenue sources of the government.

Morales said that since the exchange rate had been exerting huge influence on its collection performance, the collection target should not be just one figure but a range, depending on the peso value.

The BIR and the BOC are hard-pressed to meet their collection targets, as the government has vowed to balance its budget next year.

The last time the government posted a budget surplus was in 1997. Its budget has been at a deficit since the Asian financial crisis took its toll on corporate earnings and, consequently, on tax collection.

This resulted in less government money going to infrastructure and social services.

This year, the government has programmed to limit its deficit to P63 billion, an improvement over last year's P64.8 billion.

BPI expands in Europe, puts up unit in London

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands is opening a full banking subsidiary in London in mid-October as part of its expansion in Europe, which hosts a growing number of overseas Filipinos.

BPI, the country's second biggest bank in terms of assets, has likewise applied for the opening of full branches in Spain and Italy, BPI senior vice president Teresita Tan said in a press briefing yesterday.

BPI's new European unit will initially operate two branches in London and then use its UK banking license to establish operations in other key European markets. The bank has an existing remittance subsidiary in Rome and this will be converted into a full branch, Tan said.

Unlike a remittance unit which can only handle cash transfers, a full branch can accept deposits, offer loans, trade currencies and provide letters of credit.

However, BPI, which is to date the biggest banking channel for overseas Filipino remittances, does not see the need for aggressive investment in physical presence to expand its offshore business.

"The establishment of branches is the most expensive way to expand. Our strategy is not to expand a lot, maybe put up one or two branches a year but we are also expanding by establishing tie-ups," said Raul Dimayuga, president of BPI Direct, the BPI group's savings bank unit focused on the overseas Filipino market.

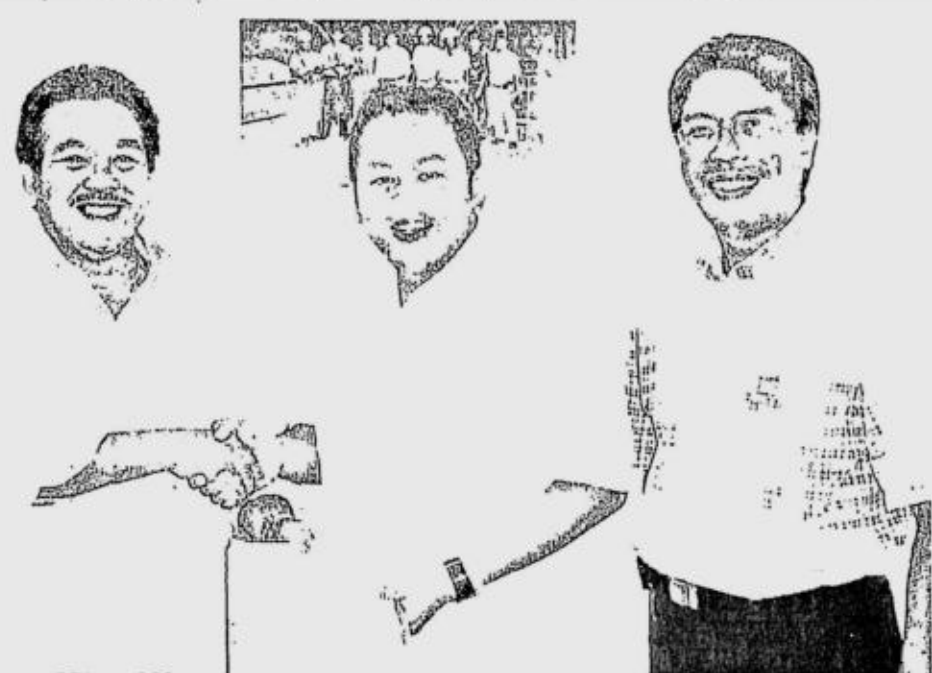
For instance, Dimayuga said an existing tie-up with US banking giant Wells Fargo had enabled BPI to capture a big business in the US without investing in too many branches.

He said BPI could put up two or three more branches in the United States only to complement the tie-up with Wells Fargo. The bank's comprehensive electronic banking platform, whether using mobile or web-based solutions, is also seen as adequate to reach out to Filipinos working abroad.

Dimayuga also expressed confidence that the current global financial market volatility caused by the US subprime crisis would not adversely affect the inflow of overseas Filipino remittances to the country.

Although the subprime crisis could affect some western countries, Dimayuga said the impact on inward remittances to the Philippines could be tempered by growing remittances in other parts of the world like in the Middle East.

He said demand for Filipino workers in the Middle East continued to grow despite the overall downtrend in deployment this year.



FIRM GETS MINING PERMIT

Mining and Geosciences Bureau director Horacio Ramos (left) hands over to Frank Lao of Oriental Synergy Mining Corp. the Mineral and Production Sharing Agreement awarded to the company for its mining claim in Urbiztondo, Surigao del Norte. With Ramos and Lao is Leo Hazareno also of MGB.

ISM gets \$10M in investment

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LONDON-BASED investment fund Ashmore Investment Management Ltd. is

investing \$10 million or about P450 million in listed technology firm ISM Communications Corp. of former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, ISM, formerly Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc., said this meant Ashmore's stake in the company would increase to 31.3 percent from 22 percent.

Ashmore is a major investment fund based in the United Kingdom. It manages some \$32 billion worth of funds.

ISM said its board approved the private placement by Ashmore and the is-

suance of 16.5 billion ISM to that company.

The shares will be issued at a 10-percent discount to the 20-day average price of ISM shares, which as of yesterday was 3.04 centavos, or about 2.74 centavos per share.

To accommodate the private placement and to provide ISM with flexibility for future capital expansion, the company's board also approved the increase in ISM's capitalization from the existing P1.2 billion to P3 billion.

A special stockholders' meeting will be held for the ratification of the capital

hike, but the date has yet to be set.

The proceeds from the private placement are being earmarked for further investments in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) and acquisitions in the information and communications industries.

ISM owns 57.7 percent in ETPI, a domestic corporation engaged in operating, installing and establishing commercial telecommunication, point-to-point domestic inter-island and international communications and other telecommunications services.

CURRENCIES

September 27, 2007	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.707814	1.000000	45.2010
Japan	Yen	0.006126	0.008655	0.3912
United Kingdom	Pound	1.426812	2.015800	91.1162
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091135	0.128756	5.8199
Switzerland	Franc	0.604608	0.854190	38.6102
Canada	Dollar	0.705205	0.996314	45.0344
Singapore	Dollar	0.472475	0.667512	30.1722
Australia	Dollar	0.618935	0.874432	39.5252
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.878937	2.654562	119.9889
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189255	0.267380	12.0858
Brunei	Dollar	0.470903	0.665292	30.0719
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000109	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022470	0.031746	1.4350
UAE	Dirham	0.192786	0.272368	12.3113
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.412800	63.8600
Korea	Won	0.000769	0.001086	0.0491
China	Yuan**	0.094187	0.133067	6.0148
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.189502	8.5657
India	Rupee	0.017869	0.025246	1.1411
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206721	0.292525	13.2012
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526687	0.744103	33.6342
Sweden	Kroner	0.108230	0.152908	6.9116
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021500	0.030375	1.3730

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time - Sept. 26, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen

** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 26, 2007



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A

3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292

September 28, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1. CALAMBA STEEL CENTER, INC. Brgy. Samsin, Calamba City	Mr. Nobuya Akimotori Japanese	Technical Consultant
2. PHILIPPINE DENRAI, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Shigekazu Imanishi Japanese	Production Adviser
3. B.K. ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Durek Soo Bark/ Korean	General Manager for Operation
4. HI-PRECISION STEEL CENTER, INC. PTC, Bo. Moduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Takashi Makiguchi/ Japanese	Senior Manager of Sales Department 2
5. HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC. FPIP, Tanauan City	Mr. Takatsugu Hiroki/ Japanese	Assistant Vice President for Service
6. SOUTHERN EAST HARDWARE & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY National Highway, Banlic, Cabayao, Laguna	Mr. Qinghuan Hong/ Chinese	Sales Manager
7. GA & P TEC, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Daehyun Yoo/ Korean	Marketing Consultant
8. LUSTER RUBBER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Suekazu Ide/ Japanese	Technical Adviser
9. LUSTER RUBBER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Ms. Akiko Ishino/ Japanese	President
10. MAXIM PHILIPPINES OPERATING CORP. GBP, Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite	Mr. Steven H. Cox/ American	General Manager
11. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kyoung-Min Baek/ Korean	Production Technical Adviser
12. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kyung Su Lee/ Korean	Production Technical Adviser
13. HANA MILLION, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Seung Bok Oh/ Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI-September 28, 2007)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

BUSINESS

B7

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS							
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	15,000
73	38.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	59	55.5	59	1,375,800
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67.5	67	67.5	1,711,100
935	630	China Banking Corp.	865	875	865	875	7,690
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	1,500
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	8,230,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	54.5	56	53.5	55	10,240,500
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47	47	543,500
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	1,000
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	53	53	53	53	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	3,566,100
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	70	72	70	72	23,600
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	55	55	54.5	54.5	38,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS							
5.6	1.76	AIIR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	66,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	1,504,000
16.25	3.7	CitiseOnline.com Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	151,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	150,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	200
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	510
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.55	3.65	3.5	3.65	2,328,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	127,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	760	760	750	755	1,890
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,305.00	2,300.00	2,305.00	1,000
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	213,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER							
6.2	3.8	Abotiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	2,831,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	490,000
70	49	First Gen Corp.	59	60.5	57.5	60.5	3,414,600
92	49.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76.5	81	76.5	79.5	1,162,500
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	2,912,900
105.45	17.27	Manila Electric Co.	83	83	82	83	1,870,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	11,568,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.5	5.8	6,362,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.5	386,000
1.9	0.99	Trans. Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	319,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO							
6.3	3.1	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.78	961,000
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53.5	52.5	52.5	1,698,700
0.98	0.43	RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	70,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60	60.5	60	60.5	2,025,900
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61	62.5	61	62	842,900
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	4,675,300
0.55	0.26	Vitacore Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	120,000
CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE, ALLIED SERVICES							
6.1	1.77	Eli Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	597,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	5,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3	2,054,000
7	1.4	Republic Cement Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	50,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.26	1.18	1.24	33,967,000
CHEMICALS							
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	1,571,000
1.46	0.71	Mahabir Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	580,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
0.25	0.125	Boji Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	21,600,000
HOLDING FIRMS							
3.9	2	A. Serrano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	2,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	16,700,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.84	0.84	18,380,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3.15	2.95	3.1	5,088,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3	3.3	3	3.25	8,060,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Holdings Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,300,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Holdings Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,700,000
9.7	5.1	Abotiz Equities Ventures Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	6.9	995,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	64,700,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.9	5	4.85	4.95	44,986,000
1.38	0.51	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	510,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.32	2.26	2.32	7,533,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	510	535	510	535	609,360
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	5,652,000
10.25	3.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.2	1,842,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	55,000
8	2.55	Flinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	867,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	1.94	2	1.94	2	180,000
14.5	5.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	410,000
5.9	0.61	Jollibee Holdings Corp.	1.84	2.04	1.8	1.94	1,310,000
0.8	0.205	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	60,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.1	8,305,000
8.2	2.8	NAL Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	10,000
0.215	0.01	Pacific Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.19	0.2	765,680,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.87	0.9	840,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,090,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	100,000
452.5	236.89	SM Investments Corp.	370	375	370	375	264,830
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	9,470,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	20,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	8,000
0.75	0.1	Wellux Industries Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	27,610,000
1.1	0.26	Zoex Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.8	0.65	0.72	1,150,000
PROPERTY							
2.34	0.96	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.58	1,334,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.1	7.9	8	62,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	370,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	23,766,400
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	3,740,000
2.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	4	3.8	4	139,000
0.86	0.31	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	3,000
0.83	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	900,000
0.99	0.51	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	1,810,000
0.47	0.05	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.28	0.28	14,270,000
1.48	0.55	Ever Gossco Resources & Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	7,330,000
2.44	1.25	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.24	45,711,000
1.12	0.24	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.68	1.54	1.66	107,324,000
4.4	1.73	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	9,310,000
6.4	1.5	Megaworld Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.35	4,381,000
0.7	0.125	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,390,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,310,000
23	12.5	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	4,880,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.8	4.1	4.8	208,000
9.3	1.52	Robinson Land Corp.	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	9,989,900
13.5	6.64	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.15	1,247,000
3.25	0.98	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	7,246,700
1.34	0.46	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.3	2.4	745,000
0.49	0.08	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	90,000
7.5	3.65	Univide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	450,000
MEDIA							
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	32.5	31.5	32	39,700
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.1	9.2	9	9.2	620,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,467,000
1,520.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,485.00	1,520.00	1,485.00	1,515.00	242,420
2,945.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,895.00	2,945.00	2,895.00	2,940.00	97,350
7.9	6.5	Philippine Telephone Corp.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.1	3,015,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	3,660,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	776,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.045	0.032	0.045	929,700,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	17	15.5	17	13,700
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.78	360,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.195	70,450,000
2.08	1.1	Musico Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.28	383,000
0.0725	0.029	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	949,900,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Benzethand Group Int'l Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
38.5	16.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	38	38.5	37.5	37.5	873,800
HOTEL & LEISURE							
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	8.7	9	8.7	9	17,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	80,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	540,000
1.2	0.42	Westfront Philippines Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	3,350,000
EDUCATION							
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	1,000
3.7	2.6	People Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	230,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES							
6	1.94	Macroasa Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.55	198,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	13	185,200
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	13	291,100
MINING							
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	367,200,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	488,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	151,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15				

BUSINESS

Proton increases export target

Firm eyes talks with Indian partners

BANGKOK—MALAYSIA'S CARMAKER PROTON plans to raise annual car exports to 100,000 within the next few years from about 44,000 forecast for this fiscal year, chief executive Syed Mohamed Tahir said on Thursday.

The state-owned company expected a substantial portion of its future exports to come from China and India where it hoped to establish footholds soon, Tahir told reporters.

Proton in July appointed Youngman Automobile Group Ltd. as its distributor in China where it hoped to sell 30,000 cars under a rebadged Eurostar brand over 20 months from November, he said.

"We will first ship complete built-up cars to China and switch to CKD exports from mid-2008," Tahir told Reuters, referring to complete knocked-down kits.

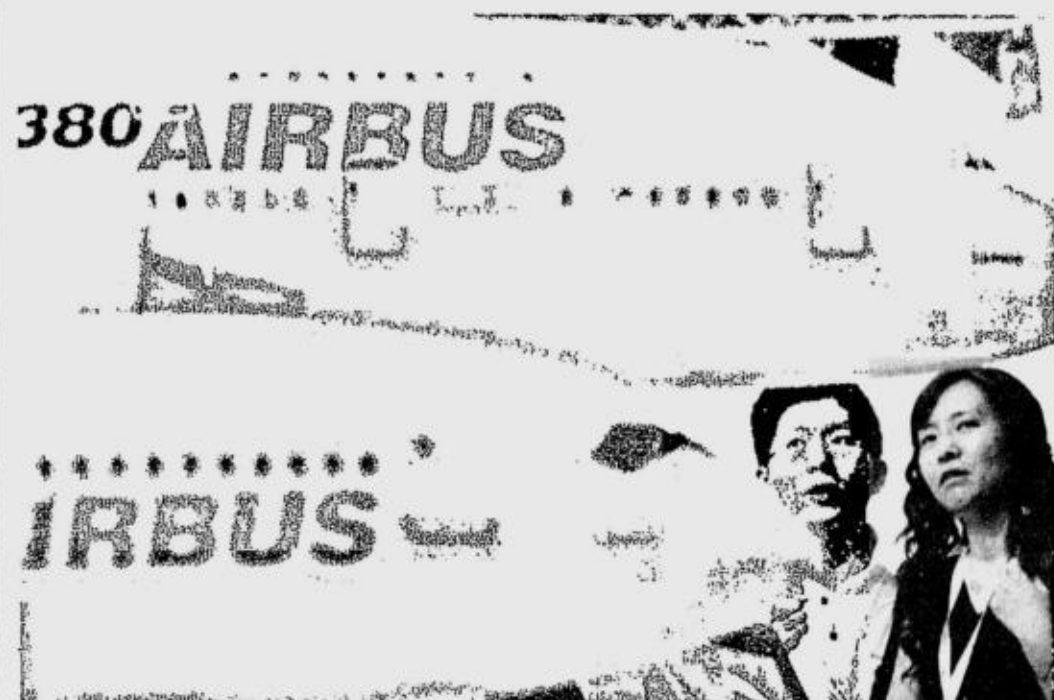
Proton also has begun talks with potential Indian partners, but it was premature to say when the company would enter that market, he said.

Of 44,000 Proton cars expected to be exported in the current financial year ending March 2008, excluding China, some 16,000-17,000 would go to Iran and 4,000-5,000 to the United Kingdom.

The Malaysian government has been in talks with Volkswagen, the world's fourth-largest carmaker, over the possible sale of a stake in loss-making Proton.

Proton, which faces a shrinking market share, wants to tie up with a global carmaker to boost its sales and turn itself around. It expects to return to profit this financial year.

Proton appointed Phranakorn Auto Sales Ltd. as its Thai distributor. **Reuters**



Visitors view a model of the Airbus A380 superjumbo, the world's largest airliner, in Hong Kong. **AP**

BA buys Airbus superjumbos

LONDON—BRITISH AIRWAYS announced a plane order worth \$8.2 billion at list prices on Thursday, ending decades of loyalty to Boeing's 747 jumbo with a switch to Airbus's new A380 superjumbo.

The order for 12 superjumbos from Airbus and 24 787 Dreamliners from Boeing Co will replace 34 of the airline's longhaul fleet.

BA chief executive Willie Walsh told reporters the airline would use the superjumbo to make best use of its limited take-off slots at London's crowded Heathrow airport.

He denied the company had experienced political pressure to buy the superjumbo, the wings and engines of which will be built in Britain.

"There was absolutely none," he told reporters. "There was no contact, be it formal or informal. The decision was made in the best interest of British Airways. In the engines, the choice of Rolls-Royce was because British is best."

The mammoth A380 double-decker has a maximum seating capacity of 853 passengers, though most airlines plan to use configurations of less than 650, which is still a jump from the 747-400, which BA currently flies with a maximum of 351 seats.

The aircraft will be delivered between 2010 and 2014, and BA said it had also taken options for a further seven Airbus superjumbos and 18 of Boeing's Dreamliners.

The airline said both aircraft types would be powered by engines from Rolls-Royce, which said it could make up to \$5 billion from the deal.

BA said it was considering aircraft to replace its remaining 37 Boeing 747s and is examining the Boeing 777-300 ER, the Airbus A350-900, as well as a stretched version of Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, the 787-10, which the planemaker has yet to launch.

"This puts big pressure on Boeing to actually launch the 787-10," said one London-based brokerage analyst. **Reuters**

Japan moves to attract more container ships amid slump

TOKYO—JAPAN IS TAKING STEPS TO attract more container ships to its shores, driven by concerns that the waning fortune of its ports could hurt the country's economy and industries.

Over the past decade, an increasing amount of goods from Japan have been sent to a neighboring Asian trans-shipment hub, such as the South Korean port of Pusan, instead of being shipped directly to their destination, adding to time and costs.

Ken Abe, a deputy director at Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, said given Japan's expensive distribution costs, the move made sense if goods were being moved from areas on the coast facing South Korea.

"The trouble is that even large Japanese ports like Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe... are facing the same problem despite the fact that it should be more efficient to ship goods directly from there," Abe said.

Trans-shipment of goods from Japan rose to 15.5 percent in 2003, up from 2.1 percent in 1993, official data showed.

Alarmed by the situation, Japan in 2004 launched a long-term project to expand and improve port efficiency.

Japan has about 60 container ports but

the project, according to industry sources, calls for concentrating on three regional ports.

These are Tokyo-Yokohama, Nagoya-Yokkaichi and Osaka-Kobe, with some 52.4 billion yen earmarked for fiscal 2008 alone for improvement measures, up 37.8 percent year-on-year.

The measures include steps to trim the time needed for goods to be unloaded and moved through customs from the current roughly three days to one day, putting it on a par with Singapore.

It also hopes to cut handling costs by about 30 percent, which would make it about equal to Pusan and Taiwan's Kaohsiung.

Steps are also being taken to improve shallow port drafts.

Tokyo, Japan's top container port in volume, is due to have three ports with a draft of 15-16 meters to accommodate the world's large vessels.

An official at the Tokyo harbor authority said work on the first of the three ports started in April but won't be finished until by around 2013 or 2014.

Japan's ports have been eclipsed by their Asian rivals, worrying Japanese industries, although many have moved production centers overseas due to lower costs. **Reuters**



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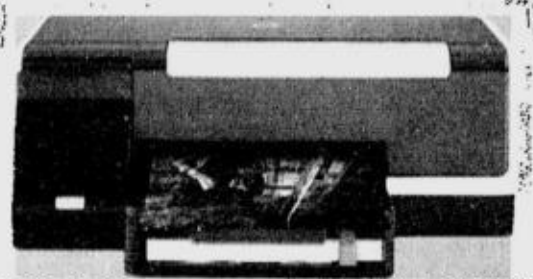
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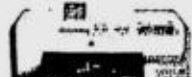
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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Business Forecasts Going South

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Good food in a classy 'carinderia'

Tio Pepe, the latest addition to the Jollibee dining chain, comes up with a new menu that will surely draw the 'masa'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING quality food at affordable prices, the Jollibee group has few equals.

But while the fast-food giant is riding high on the unabated expansion of its Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, Delifrance and Red Ribbon branch networks, it is nevertheless aware that not all Filipinos can afford to eat its meals.

Jollibee estimates that only one of five Filipinos can afford to regularly eat at any of its stores, with cost as the main reason.

Jollibee, however, believes that all Filipinos should have access to good food.

It was this desire to "bring the joy of eating to everyone" that led the group, through Jollibee Foundation, to set up the Tio Pepe

karinderia in Edsa Central, Pasig City, which started operations last July.

Tio Pepe has 50 food items on its menu—from *tuyo* and *chamorado* for breakfast to beef *caldereta* and rice for dinner—which were tried and tested and subjected to quality control in the kitchens of the Jollibee group.

These were developed with the low-income Filipinos in mind, thus the viands sell for as low as P29 for *lumpia* and rice to a maximum of P49 for the beef *caldereta*. *Tuyo* and *chamorado* goes for P18 and coffee sells for P5. All meals come with free soup.

Self-service

What's more, patrons get to eat their food in clean surroundings and with clean plates and utensils. It is a self-service *carinderia*, but there are waiters to help bring their meals to their table and to clean

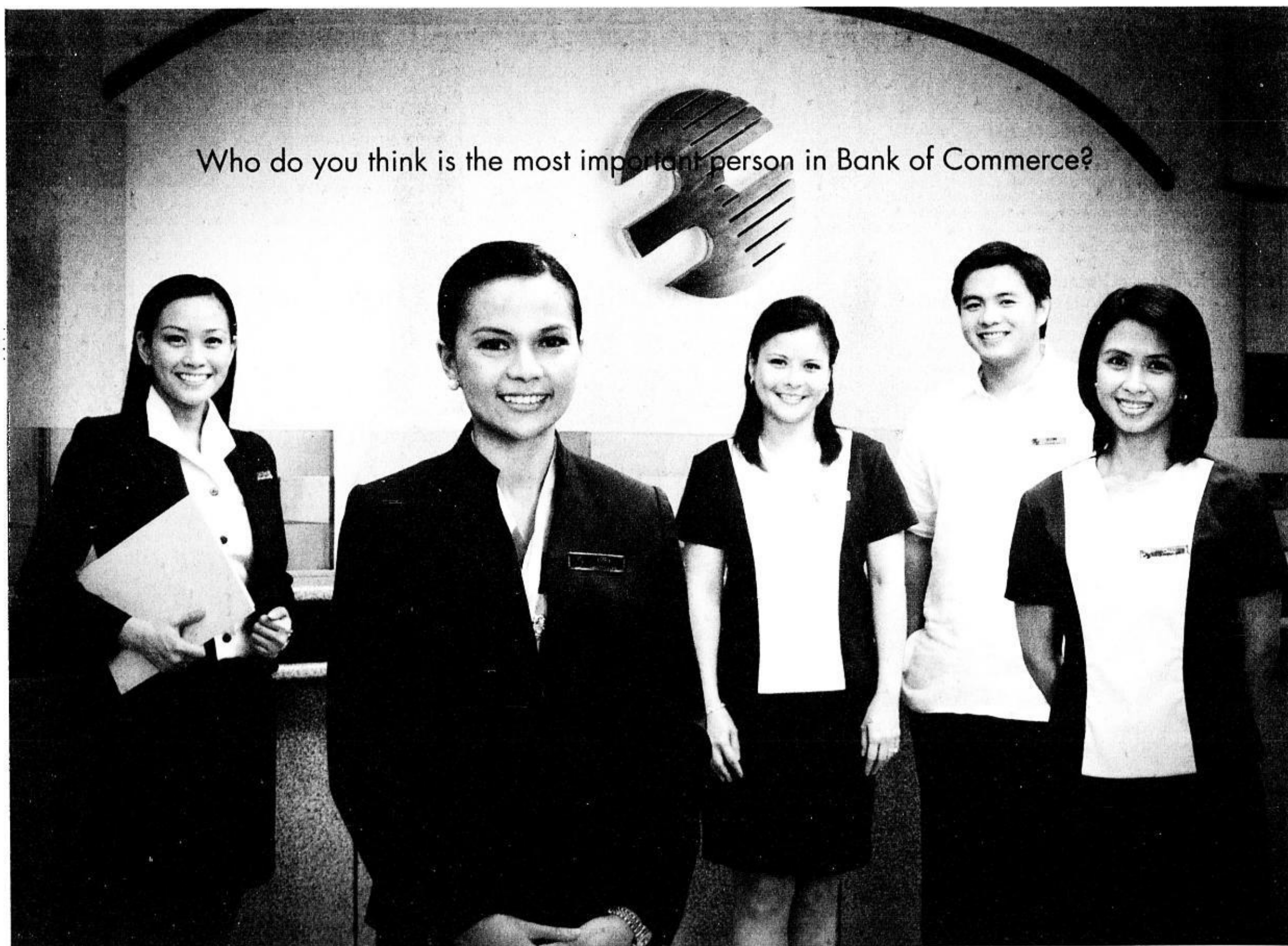
up after they've had their fill.

Just two months after it opened, the 120-square meter Tio Pepe counts messengers, drivers, janitors and even *taho* vendors among its loyal patrons. They happily eat side by side with office workers in their smart clothes who also want to extend their food budget.

"What we are trying to do is set standard for food service to the masses, make it convenient and sanitary for them," explains Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Caktiong. "It is also a way to help the entire *carinderia* industry to upgrade."

GOOD FOOD/B2-3

TIO PEPE'S was conceived to give low-income Filipinos cheap, quality food in a hygienic surrounding.



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People, Events & Products

'Winning OFW Tales'

WITH MORE THAN 8 MILLION Filipino workers scattered in 140 countries worldwide, almost every Filipino knows an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) or at least a member of an OFW family. Some people's knowledge may be limited to the stories of the triumphs and successes of these OFWs and their families as they can only see the house, appliances and gadgets they own along with a more comfortable lifestyle. What others may fail to realize or take for granted are the sacrifices and struggles that these OFWs and their families are compelled to live with in exchange for a better life.

These interesting lives of OFWs as they cope with living away from their loved ones while their families bear the absence of a spouse, parent or sibling are what "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" centers on. Aired Sundays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on QTV 11, this weekly drama anthology hosted by Miriam Quiambao features powerful combination of upcoming talents and veteran actors and actresses as they bring to life the true stories of selected OFWs and their families under highly talented directors Gina Alajar, Soxy Topacio and Phil Noble.

Viewers of "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" not only get to enjoy poignant episodes

but likewise learn vital lessons in life magnified by Quiambao's counsel as a life coach regarding significant Filipino values that are crucial to the survival of OFW families.

As "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" concluded its second season May 20, it is pleased to present Pamilyang OFW "Mga Waging Kwento" Mofya Special Series in its effort to enjoin the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in giving due recognition to exceptional OFWs and their families via its Model OFW Family of the Year Award (Mofya).

Now on its second year, the Owwa award aims to emphasize the significance of solidarity within the family unit to survive the multifaceted issues faced by OFW families. Owwa acknowledges the sacrifice, hard work and family teamwork necessary in maximizing the benefits of being an OFW family. In the search for model OFW families, Owwa acknowledges achievements in entrepreneurship along with the ability to generate employment opportunities. These factors establish how these OFWs and their families manage not only to cope but realize their potentials and contribute to the community as well.

The special series will showcase the tales of Mofya winners and finalists in their struggles and how

they successfully cope with OFW life. These stories are truly in line with what "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" stood for-inspiring others to do good for the family community and the country.

"Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" is produced by Segments & Clips Productions Inc (Saci), an infotainment company with the thrust on producing sensible films, radio and television shows that center on issues concerning women and children, migration, education, culture, health and the environment.

With the success of "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)" in its first and second seasons, Saci is bringing DSIP closer to more Filipinos who can enjoy and identify with this heartwarming drama series. Via RPN USA through the Viva Pinoy Pack under the Dish Network, Saci proudly presents "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan... in America". Scheduled to be aired twice every Sunday including a primetime slot at 8 p.m. PST and twice every Wednesdays, Filipinos in 50 US states will soon be able to enjoy this weekly drama anthology the way viewers in the Philippines have.

For more information on "Dahil Sa 'Yong Paglisan (Pamilyang OFW)", log on to www.ofwpamilya.com.ph.



PETRON DONATES P1M FOR SCHOOL DESIGN COMPETITION

Petron Foundation executive director Malu Erni (middle) turns over a check for P1 million to Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr (2nd from L) in support of the National Disaster Coordinating Council's (NDCC) "Be Better-Build Better" project. The project aims to conduct an international competition to design and build cost-effective and energy-efficient school buildings able to withstand earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. With the DPWH, DepEd, DND, and the Private Sector Disaster Management Network (PSDMN) as major partners, the project hopes to have the winning design adopted as

the standard for future public school-building construction. Announcement of the winning design is scheduled for March 2008 and its actual construction will be in Albay on April 2008. Petron's sponsorship of the project is in line with its own school-building program, which started in June 2002. Petron has already built 13 school buildings and will build another 10 by the end of this year. Also shown are Meralco Foundation president and PSDMN chair Alex Escano (left), Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar (2nd from left) and Camarines Sur Governor El-Ray Villafuerte Jr (right).

Honda adjusts CR-V prices

HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC HAS bared plans to adjust prices of its popular SUV the CR-V. Introduced in March 2007, Honda CRV has rocketed to the top of the SUV sales chart. To date, some 2,400 CR-Vs have already been delivered to happy customers. From its introductory prices, Honda plans to bring CR-V prices to normal levels. Effective Oct. 15, the automatic transmission CR-Vs will be increased by P10,000 and P15,000 for the manual transmission. Honda CR-V with automatic transmission will be priced P1,270,000 for the 2.0-liter variant and P1,470,000 for the 2.4-liter variant while the 2.0 liter with manual transmission will be priced P1,220,000.

The CR-Vs are both available with 2.4-liter (DOHC, 170ps @ 5800 rpm) and 2.0 liter (SOHC, 150ps @ 6200 rpm) in i-VTEC configuration that delivers a perfect balance of power and fuel efficiency.

First introduced in the Philippines in 1997, the Honda CR-V boasts of a comfortable ride,

being developed from a passenger car platform. While most SUVs are created from pick-up trucks, the CR-V traces its roots from Honda's popular sedan Civic, giving it the most comfortable ride among SUVs and perfect for the everyday commute.

With Honda's patented Real Time 4WD, the CR-V possesses SUV characteristics that more than meet the need for ordinary driving. The Real Time 4WD switches into 4x4 mode whenever it senses a slip in front drive wheels, without the need to operate switches. It automatically engages all-wheel power whenever greater traction is required.

The CR-V comes in exciting colors: Nighthawk Black Pearl, Ruby Red Pearl, Sparkle Gray, and Satellite Silver. Exclusive colors available for the 2.0-li model are Alabaster Silver Metallic and Taffetta White. For the 2.4-li model, exclusive colors are Brilliant White Pearl and Silverstone.

For more details, call any Honda dealership or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

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QYOUBEE LAUNCHED IN HONOLULU

Enjoying the Mabuhay-Aloha Festival at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu to launch QYOUBEE, a new calling service by Quattro Broadband in cooperation with Globe Kababayan, are (from left): Mito Ablan, QYOUBEE distributor (Hawaii), Sandy Bello, Globe Telecom migrant segment business manager, Albert Villanueva, Quattro Broadband VP operations, Alan Supnet, Globe Telecom strategic communities head, Mel Castro,

Quattro Broadband president and COO, Heidi Dyangko, Globe Telecom international business development territory manager, Honolulu City and County Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Romeo Garcia, Mayor's aide, Nikko Acosta, Globe Telecom head of international services, Baybee Hufana-Ablan, QYOUBEE distributor (Hawaii) and Linda Chalk, Bishop Museum director.

29th Family Rosary Crusade at SCC

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE IN LEGARDA, MANILA WILL HOLD ITS Family Rosary Crusade nine-day novena from Sept. 28 to Oct. 6, at the SCC Chapel. The schedule of this year's celebration, theme and Mass celebrants for each day are as follows: Sept. 28, 3 p.m. "The Rosary and the Youth of Today" - Bishop Profugo; Sept. 29, 3 p.m. "The Rosary: A Way Towards National Healing and Reconciliation" - Fr. Alfredo Sabado, SVD; Sept. 30, 8 a.m. "The Rosary and Its Relevance to the Signs of the Times" - Fr. Winston Cabading, OP; Oct. 1, 3 p.m. "The Rosary as Source of Strength for the Filipino People" - Fr. Robert Reyes, OP; Oct. 2, 3 p.m. "The Rosary and Empowerment of the Laity Towards Integral Renewal" - Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner, OP; Oct. 3, 3pm "Women with the Rosary... Transforming Lives" - Fr. Richard Ang, OP; Oct. 4, 3 p.m. "Building and Strengthening Communities Through the Rosary" - Fr. Enrico Gonzales, OP; Oct. 5, 3 p.m. "Mary, Wellspring of Peace and Model of Faith" - Fr. Christian Buenafe, OCarm; Oct. 6, 2:30 p.m. "The Filipino Family With the Rosary Towards Social Transformation" - Msgr. Sabino Vengco, Jr.; Salve Regina, Blessing, Despedida Ala Virgen - Msgr. Vicente Bauson. The procession will start from SCC Campus, right to Legarda St., U-turn to flyover, right to Sta. Teresita St., left to G. Tuazon, left to J. Fajardo, left to Earnshaw, left to Manrique, left to Lardizabal, right to Jhocson, left to Legarda, then back to SCC Campus. Everybody is invited to join this year's FRC novena and procession.

Siena QC Rosary Crusade turns 40

THE ROSARY CRUSADE OF SIENA COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY WILL HAVE another milestone as it turns forty this year with the theme: "Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the Family". The novena-masses in honor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 1-4 and at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30 at the College Chapel at the 3rd floor of the main building. On the ninth day, Oct. 5, the Eucharistic celebration will be presided over by Most Reverend Honesto Ongtioco, DD Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao after the novena prayers which will start at 1:15 p.m. at the Siena Hall. The grand procession will immediately follow the mass. There will also be an exhibit of photos of the Siena Rosary Crusade celebrations through the years at the main lobby during the novena days and the rest of October.

MMC symposium on Emergency Medicine

THE MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER'S DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY Medicine in cooperation with the Philippine College of Emergency Medicine and Acute Care Inc (PCEMAC) will hold the 8th Annual Symposium in Emergency Medicine on Sept. 27 and 28, at the SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Makati City. The symposium aims to update and help further improve the diagnosis, management and treatment of acute and urgent illnesses and injuries that require immediate medical attention. The 2-day event is open to residents, consultants, nurses, EMTs, and hospital administrators. On-site registration fees are P1,200 and P1,400 for non-PCEMAC member consultants. For inquiries, please call 888-8910, and look for any of the following: Dr. Eliza Teodosio, Dr. Amado Flores III, Dr. Venus Calingasan, Dr. Mary Grace Lim, Dr. Catherine Mauricio-Racio, or Dr. Marierose Mendoza, or e-mail emergency@makatimed.net.ph.

Isuzu sponsors RP-Japan Racing Festival

ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORP CONTINUES to show its full support of the Philippines' ties with Japan, as it sponsored the 2nd Isuzu Racing Cup that coincided with this year's Philippines-Japan Racing Festival (PJRF) held Sep. 2 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

IPC began the Isuzu Racing Cup last year, in which the PJRF commemorated the Golden Jubilee celebration of Philippines-Japan Friendship, or the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two nations in 1956. This year's PJRF was equally special as it marked the 140th anniversary of the Manila Jockey Club.

"The government of Japan is absolutely in support of this racing festival, which is geared toward shaping a more comprehensive partnership between the Philippines and Japan," said outgoing Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo endorsed the event. "This racing festival is an opportunity for Filipino and Japanese businessmen to interact among themselves while promoting horse racing as a sport," the President said.

Isuzu is likewise a firm advocate of Philippine-Japan relations. For the company's part, it believes that it helps foster diplomatic ties between these two nations by continuing to assemble excellent Japanese-brand vehicles that Filipinos can completely trust and patronize.

"Just like the Manila Jockey Club, which has promoted excellence in racing for 140 years, Isuzu will always be synonymous with the best in diesel transportation through its commercial vehicles and diesel engines," stressed IPC president Keiji Takeda. "Our fuel-efficient engines assist Filipinos in propping up their national economy. It is with pride and joy that we do our share in this country's nation-building program."

Just like the horses that participated in this year's Isuzu Racing Cup, the Alterra, the D-Max and the Crosswind all race toward a common goal. That goal is to consistently serve as a faultless example of Japanese excellence to the Filipino people, so that the ties between the two great nations of the Philippines and Japan will continue to grow stronger and closer.



THIS YEAR'S PJRF was equally special as it marked the 140th anniversary of the Manila Jockey Club. Executives present, from left, were IPC vice president for corporate business Arthur Balmadrid,

IPC executive vice president Kazuhiko Sho, MJC chair and CEO lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr, outgoing Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Ryuichiro Yamazaki, and IPC president Keiji Takeda.



PALANCA AWARDEE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY

The Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature recently conferred the first prize in the One-Act Play category to Debbie Ann Tan for her work "Time Waits." With Tan (3rd from left) are (from left) Marne L. Kilates, chair, poetry; Nicanor Tiongson, chair, full-length play; Frank G. Rivera, chair,

one-act play; Nemie Bermajo, project manager of Palanca Foundation; and Sylvia Palanca-Quirino, director general of Palanca Foundation. Established in 1950 to honor Don Carlos Palanca Sr, the awards aim to serve as an incentive for Filipino writers to craft their outstanding literary works.

FORUM

You may ask: Why entrepreneurship?

By Anna Marie Periquet
Chair, Young Entrepreneurs
Group-Asia Pacific

FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS IT has been my longstanding mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth not only in the Philippines, but in the Asia-Pacific region as well.

Entrepreneurship, defined as the ability to marshal resources in order to seize new business opportunities which have uncertain outcomes, has gained renewed importance. It has become central to economic growth in light of the rapid advancement of information technology and growing importance of knowledge.

The new economy now calls for innovative ideas, individual initiative, rather than organizational discipline, adjustability and greater speed in taking decisions, which I must say is what entrepreneurship is all about.

The renewed importance of entrepreneurship is reflected in the 11th Apec Ministerial Meeting of SMEs held in Chile in 2004. The ministers welcomed the "Santiago Agenda on Entrepreneurship" which identified best entrepreneurial practices and reinforced the need for their implementation.

The agenda seeks to share the experiences of Apec member-economies in creating a healthy business environment to foster growth and innovation for SMEs. It calls for public sector intervention in the regional economy to ensure that entrepreneurship promotion policies are developed to promote growth and job creation as well as encourage SME innovation.

In addition to ways to promote new ventures, the agenda acknowledges the justification for public intervention for reasons of overcoming economic instability, disadvantages based on ethnicity, imbalances between rural and urban development, and gender inequity.

While priority accorded to individual objectives of the agenda varies between economies, specific areas have been identified where public intervention and the development of stronger policies for entrepreneurship promotion may be particularly useful.

Further, a series of recommendations and actions have been noted of each of these four areas: developing human capital, access to funding, removing barriers to new business creation, and innovation and technology.

Very much alive

Entrepreneurship is very much alive in the Philippines. The great bulk of local enterprises are micro-enterprises, making up 91.9 percent, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprising only 7.8 percent of the total number of enterprises. Large enterprises account for a mere 0.33 percent of total enterprises.

The Philippine government recognizes that entrepreneurship is a strategic intervention that could hasten rural development process. Among the 10-point agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo is the creation of six million jobs in six years through more opportunities given to entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, the President has created the Office of the Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship in 2005 whose mandate is the creation of three million entrepreneurs by the end of Ms Arroyo's term in 2010.

In addition, the Philippines also enacted Republic Act No. 9178, a law that promotes the establishment of Barangay Mi-



PERIQUET

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'I think given the right exposure, opportunities and training, the entrepreneurial talents of more young Filipinos will surely surface.'

cro Business Enterprises by providing incentives and benefits in promoting the formation of micro enterprises, which serve as seedbeds of Filipino entrepreneurial talents, by giving them fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that will help them survive and grow into viable enterprises.

Recognizing the need for a framework and detailed strategies to promoting the culture of entrepreneurship and of developing the SME sector, the Philippines has prepared the National SME Agenda which has now been integrated into a Medium Enterprise Development Plan for 2006-2010.

The main objective of the agenda is the expansion of the enterprise by graduating micro and small enterprise to higher levels of business undertakings and upgrading their productivity and value added capabilities. It has five functional areas, namely: financing, human resource development and entrepreneurship training, market development, product development, and advocacy for enabling environment.

The SME Development Plan 2004 to 2010 aims to transform the SME sector into a significant contributor to national development by 2010. This vision shall be attained through clear and integrated strategies to attain global competitiveness for Philippine SMEs, within a supportive operating domestic climate. The plan details strategies and corresponding programs drawn up through extensive and joint efforts between the private business sector and concerned government entities.

PCCI as catalyst

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the biggest business organization in the Philippines, recognizes that entrepreneurship is a critical element of SME development and in national economic progress.

As such, PCCI is a critical catalyst in building globally competitive enterprises in partnership with local chambers and other business organizations. This vision is achieved through focused advocacy for business growth, strategic business services, particularly small and medium enterprises, and national and international business networking resulting in sustainable economic growth for the long term benefit of our business and people.

In pursuit of this mission, the PCCI com-

mittee on entrepreneurship has implemented several programs and activities on entrepreneurial development. These include, among others, interaction and collaboration among PCCI entrepreneur members through database building, roundtable discussions, enhancement of entrepreneurial opportunities through PCCI's nationwide network, conduct of entrepreneurship seminars in universities for students, conduct of management and skills training courses for existing and prospective entrepreneurs and their workforce, and the conduct of best business plan competitions.

Some people say Filipinos are not of the entrepreneurial kind. They say this with the observation that most of us have that employee mentality. A student leaves school with high hopes of getting a job at some firm, without having considered that he could start up his own business and be his own boss.

While this may be true, I would still prefer to think that given the right exposure, opportunities and training, the entrepreneurial talents and capabilities of more young Filipinos will surely surface. Our nation is still young, and we are still discovering our strengths and weaknesses.

Perhaps it is early to say what we can or cannot do. Things do change, and change constantly. This is why I look at things positively. As things change, we can always hope that they change for the better, for the common good of the country.

Our generation is most fortunate because there is a heightened attention given to the youth sector today, not only within the country but globally as well, in the opportunities surrounding entrepreneurship.

And why not? The youth comprises 60 percent of our population. From a business perspective, this sector is a large market segment just by the sheer number of young people and their varied interests. However, it does not stop there.

With that sheer number of young people, multiplied to their numerous interests, imagine the countless ideas and talents that this sector could contribute to society. However, it is this sector that is sadly lacking in resources and opportunities.

Yet, the good news is that more and more attention is being given to the youth by government and nongovernment agencies alike.

Ever since, I have pinned my high hopes on the strength of entrepreneurship. I have always espoused that it serves as the anchor to any business and economy.

I also believe that it is a solution to the alarming problem of poverty, unemployment and underemployment many developing countries are facing today.

I believe the entrepreneurial talent of a business person can be nurtured with the right environment. This does not only refer to the legal and regulatory framework nor the financial resources and institutions nor training programs of a country for entrepreneurs.

Equally important are the business practices and social attitudes of the country on entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. Studies show that countries that have recognized entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship have generally showed better economic performance in these challenging times.

In these countries, developing entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship does not only mean changing the mindset of business persons but also the attitude of society toward them. Entrepreneurs can only become more successful in a society that embraces positive aspects of entrepreneurship.

The dynamic state of entrepreneurship in the Philippines is a clear indication of a better and brighter future for the economy.

Good food in a classy 'carindzeria'

From page B2-1

It is her belief that the masses also deserve service and quality that the richer Filipinos get, and often take for granted. They do not have to make do with eating in unhygienic surroundings.

Tan Caktiong says it took about a year for the foundation, with the support of Chowking chief executive officer Rafael dela Rosa, to transform Tio Pepe from vision to reality.

This is because the Chowking management team and cooks spent a lot of time and effort on preparing all the ingredients that will make a good restaurant concept—menu, systems, even pricing—because Tio Pepe is envisioned to be a self-sustaining restaurant.

Doing very well

Dela Rosa says he chose the name "Tio Pepe" because all Filipinos have a favorite uncle, that special relative the family can count on for treats, and Pepe is a name that everybody understands, across geographies and generations.

Tio Pepe has struck a chord with the masses and Dela Rosa couldn't be happier.

"The first store is doing very well because of



THE OPENING of Tio Pepe was graced by a taho vendor, one of its target customers.

affordable, delicious products, fast service, clean store and appeal to broad segments of customers from D to B," Dela Rosa says, "the learnings provide a sense of exciting possibilities for expansion."

Local suppliers

Tan Caktiong adds that the plan is to perfect the Tio Pepe system first before eventually getting small entrepreneurs to cooperate in the project by becoming preferred suppliers.

She explains that strengthening the country's network of vegetables, meat and seasonings suppliers is part of the foundation's vision of helping provide livelihood to Filipinos.

Connecting Tio Pepe directly to suppliers will also help keep the food prices low, while giving increased income to the entrepreneurs in the countryside.

Once that supply chain is solidified, Tio Pepe will likewise be opened to franchising, but will be limited to small entrepreneurs who are looking to build a business.

The foundation is looking to build similar supplier relationships for the other Jollibee concepts.

Chowking, for instance, has tapped a farmers' group in Bulacan to supply the store with chili pepper, which it currently imports from China, while Jollibee is working at developing suppliers of white onions in Nueva Ecija.

Tan Caktiong says that by doing these projects, the entrepreneurs will directly benefit from the group's growth both here and abroad.

This should make the group's food taste even better.

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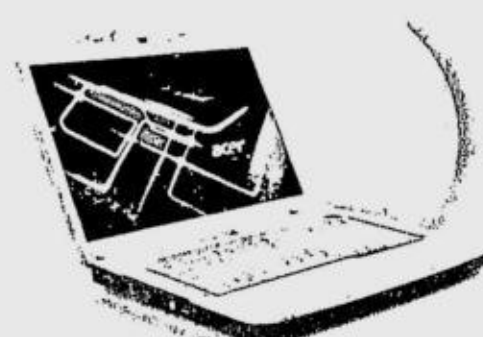
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BUSINESSFriday

Farmers' co-op bank bats for quality labeling

Move aimed at making clients' products competitive

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE PROVINCE'S biggest cooperative bank for vegetable farmers is moving beyond its regular savings and loan services to push for two marketing initiatives aimed at making its clients' products more competitive.

The Cooperative Bank of Benguet (CBB), housed in a three-story building along the busiest street leading to the vegetable trading post here, is mapping out strategies to pilot what it called a "toll packing plant" and "quality labeling" for vegetables.

These two projects, according to Gerry Lab-oyan, bank general manager, will fill in the gap of the Department of Agriculture's cold chain system that will link the farmers' crops to institutional buyers in the metropolitan area.

Active player

These moves would turn the bank as a direct and active player of the province's multi-million vegetable industry, he said.

Lab-oyan, who also heads the Benguet Chapter of Commerce, said the toll packing

plant and labeling would complement the functions of pre-coolers and minimum processing plants for newly harvested vegetables.

"The facility will subject the vegetables to rigid standards of sanitation that will cleanse them of micro organisms. Once they are certified to be clean, they will be packed and sealed," he said.

The labels will contain information that the vegetables come from Benguet, erasing the wrong "branding" that highland vegetables come from Baguio City, he said.

Some problems

And since the food now for the food business is to promote health and wellness, quality labeling will become our farmers' competitive edge," he said.

But the P10-million seed



THE BANK plays an active part in the province's vegetable industry

fund needed to put in place the toll packing plant and labeling project might meet some problems though, Lab-oyan said.

The province's organic entrepreneurs, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the New Benguet Chamber of Commerce are supporting the project.

But they said the absence of a provincial investment code and a provincial investment promotion development council could pose as obstacles.

Christine Abellon, an organic businesswoman, and Vilma Cruz-Abad, DTI provincial investment promotions officer, said there is a need to know the

province's "rules of the game" on investments since the projects need a continuous flow of capital.

"We want to learn the investment climate local officials would provide us since the projects would be initiated by the private sector," Abellon said.

Board Member Nelson Dangwa, the provincial board's committee chair on trade and commerce, said there would be no problem since the province is seriously considering the passage of an investment code.

He said he would lead a working group to study tax and business incentives for local investors.

The CBB thought of the project after its successful tieup with Benguet State University here on the promotion of Arabica coffee.

The bank began its operations in 1992 with a P1.27-million capital. The bank now has P250 million in assets with 150 farmers' cooperatives as depositors.



THE BENGUET Cooperative Bank has grown by leaps and bounds, serving farmers who produce Metro Manila's daily supply of salad vegetables.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPRITU

Debt and taxes: Tax implications of securities lending transactions

By Jose A. Osana
and Francis J. Victoria
SGV & Co

(Second of two parts)

AS EARLIER UNDERScored, the general rules and principles governing the process of securities lending transactions (SLT) under RR No. 10-2006 (old RR) as discussed above was reproduced in RR No. 5-2007 (new RR) recently issued by the BIR, except for a few significant modifications, including the following:

The new RR deals with the tax treatment of SLT involving the fixed-income securities lending program of the PDEX. Securities not listed or traded through the PDEX do not fall within the scope of the new RR;

While the old RR involves the lending of both equity and debt securities listed or traded through the PSE, the new RR involves only debt securities listed or traded through the PDEX or such securities acceptable to the lending pool system for lending under the fixed-income securities lending program of PDEX;

The new RR provides that the borrowing period cannot exceed one year from the date of the execution of the SLT confirmation notice, while the old RR provides for a two-year period;

The allowable collaterals under the new RR are fixed-income instruments (whether local or foreign currency denominated), equity instruments listed as components of the Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index (Phisix), or cash, while the old RR allows cash, government or equity securities, or bank-guaranteed letters of credit as collateral;

As to the parties to the SLT, the new RR requires that the:

- (a) Borrower must be a duly admitted trading participant of PDEX that is qualified in accordance with PDEX's fixed-income securities lending program;
- (b) Lender must be an institution likewise qualified by PDEX under the said program;
- (c) Lending agent must be

an institution accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or the Securities Exchange Commission, and also qualified by PDEX under the same program. No such qualifications or restrictions with respect to registration with the Philippine Stock Exchange are required under the old RR for borrowers, lenders, or lending agents;

The new RR introduces the participation of the lending pool system operator (which is the entity that accepts all securities intended for the transactions covered by the new RR, and delivers the said securities to the borrowers upon execution of an SLT) and the collateral management system operator (which accepts all assets intended as collateral for the SLT), and holds said assets for the benefit of the borrowers during the borrowing period;

The new RR requires the execution of a participation agreement by the respective parties in addition to the MSLA. The former is an agreement which signifies a party's undertaking and willingness to be bound by the program rules of PDEX and the MSLA.

Lending of securities

It must be noted that in an SLT covered by both BIR Revenue Regulations, there is no consideration involved which is an essential condition to consummate a sale transaction. Instead, the borrower merely puts up collateral to guarantee his obligations or debt under the agreement.

There is also a definite or limited period fixed in the agreement during which the transaction under an SBL/SLT is made effective. Thus, the relationship between the parties likewise ends upon the expiration of the agreement.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), only the sale, barter or exchange of shares of stock listed and traded through the PSE is subject to the percentage tax and documentary stamp tax (DST) imposed under the NIRC.

In this light, an SBL transaction has been properly classified as a lending of securities rather than a sale, and is therefore exempt from said taxes (See BIR Ruling No. 168-98 on the tax treatment of securities borrowing and lending transactions and Section 175 of the NIRC as amended by Republic Act

TAX-FILES

No. 9243).

Also, the two revenue regulations provide that the delivery to, and return by, the lender of the collateral shall not be subject to DST, capital gains or income tax, and other taxes, if otherwise applicable.

But to qualify as a lending of securities, the transaction must fully and continuously comply with all of the foregoing requirements of the provisions of RR No. 5-2007 or RR No. 10-2006, as the case may be, with respect to the terms and conditions of the governing MSLA.

Necessarily, if the transaction is outside of the scope of these regulations, although described as a securities borrowing and lending transaction, the same shall be considered as a regular exchange, deposit substitute transaction, or transaction deemed as sale subject to the corresponding taxes under the Philippine tax code.

Likewise, compliance with the registration requirements of the MSLA with the BIR, as well as the necessary record keeping and reporting of all transactions encompassed by the SLT as provided under these regulations, are essential conditions to maintain the tax-free character of an SLT.

Freedom from debt, taxes

While, occasionally, some market participants have maintained the view that securities lenders are mere enablers of short-selling bringing forth ill effects on the market, it cannot be denied that securities lending has been embraced by virtually every central bank and stock exchange as a significant contributor

to liquidity and, therefore, stability of stock prices (see International Organization for Securities Commissions, or IOSCO Multi-jurisdictional Information Sharing for Market Oversight Final Report dated April 2007).

In the long run, the inevitable effects of liberalization of markets, the entrance of new participants that will increase competition and loan activity, the looming mergers creating financial supermarkets offering multiple types of lending structures and functions, the increasing hedge fund transactions and sophistication of proprietary trading arbitrage strategies employed by brokers-dealers and financial institutions, and the improvement of investment industry disciplines as well as improved risk management techniques aimed at reducing operational and legal risks of SLTs will, ultimately, lead to the increasing demand for borrowing securities. Thus, a demand will exist for securities lending transactions as long as there is a demand for securities.

The issuance of these BIR regulations then becomes a welcome and laudable initiative. Nonetheless, the necessity and advisability of encouraging SLT by offering investors and market traders with debt and borrowing options laced with fiscal incentives in the form of freedom from tax burdens may yet be proven through the effective and positive implementation of the regulations in view of the legal and practical rationale for which they were intended.

It can only be anticipated that these measures of "freedom," ever sparingly as they come nowadays, may finally provide the stock market with that further allure for the search for that proverbial fortune which, though ostensibly elusive is, nonetheless, achievable by the individual and institutional investors, traders, or even by the fabled fortune seeker—all whose collective proceeds shall ultimately contribute to the building of a strong economy.



A CONCIERGE service that goes out of its way to satisfy clients has helped grow American Express Peso Platinum card member base in the past three years.

Amex raises bar for personalized service

JUST THREE YEARS AFTER ITS launch, American Express Peso Platinum card has grown its business by offering a concierge service like no other in the industry.

Just recently, the American Express Platinum concierge service contacted South African athlete Roland Schoeman, holder of three world records in swimming, upon a card member's request. Schoeman is based in Tucson, Arizona.

Grace D. Limjap, Amex card marketing head, said the member asked for help on how he could train with Schoeman. "The client wanted to know if we could make his dream possible and we did."

Amex got in touch with the athlete, who replied after a few days that he could conduct the personal training for the member.

This personalized service, nevertheless, is not unique to Peso Platinum card holders. Amex card members in the region enjoy a similar service. The bonus for Peso Platinum clients is that when in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian cities, they can avail of the same service—thanks to Amex's regional setup.

Thus, when a Hong Kong-based Amex card member required assistance in purchasing 50 cups of Haagen Dazs ice cream to be delivered to a friend in Makati the next day,

getting support from the local concierge was easy. Amex's Philippine office assisted its Hong Kong counterpart in purchasing and delivering the product.

"Our concierge called the Haagen Dazs shops in Makati, and was able to coordinate with the Glorietta branch in guaranteeing 50 pieces of assorted ice cream cups to be picked up at the designated time. The concierge then arranged for the pick-up and delivery of the products to the Enterprise Center at 2 p.m. on July 6," Limjap recalled.

Also recently, Amex received an overseas call from another card member requesting for delivery of a chocolate ice cream cake with flowers to mark the birthday of his mother who lives in Alabang. The cake was delivered on the day as requested by the client.

Both here and in eight countries in the Asia Pacific, American Express Pésos Platinum card members have become accustomed to having the concierge service do restaurant and hotel bookings for them, assist in sourcing hard-to-find items, and fulfill other unique requests.

"They know that Amex takes its concierge service seriously and will pull out all stops to please a client. That's what distinguishes our premium service from that offered by others," Limjap said.

By: Abelardo V. Cortez
FINEX President

Our economy grows at a faster pace in 2007. We continue to ride on a wave of good news on the macroeconomic front. Business prospects look promising, inflation is low, interest rate is still low, and the economy continues to grow.

FINEX (with more than 700 active members), like any other large organization worth its name, must therefore extend the reach of its new vision, going beyond normal objectives of a nationwide organization of finance men and women, academicians, and entrepreneurs. FINEX must remain sensitive to the pulse of the Filipino nation, to the wishes and aspirations of our people particularly at this time when the world, as described by author Thomas Friedman in his runaway best selling book, *The World is Flat*, is "flattening" at the dawn of the twenty first century because it's becoming more and more interconnected brought about by Internet, wireless technology, search engines and other technical innovations.

FINEX must therefore perform the big role, as befits a large, credible national organization of principled, financially-savvy men and women to ignite the national call, to make our people aware and take advantage of the tremendous potentials of

the present economic momentum in our country as well as in the Asian region. FINEX should be and must be among those leading the way, offering direction, providing hope, and seeing to it that a better economic future has become possible, very possible, for most Filipinos now and in the years to come.

As FINEX in 2007 beats the drum and sounds the clarion call to help our nation be ahead in a globalized economy, FINEX is assuming the role of a leading true agent of change in a peaceful revolution.

To everything, as the Bible says, there is a reason, a time for every purpose under the heavens. May the season of plenty come our way soon and help all of us realize our common hopes, our common dreams.

FINEX 2007 'Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy'

Code of Ethics for the Financial Executive

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

The Financial Executive holds a position of trust and confidence. This fiduciary role should be of paramount consideration in his dealings, both internal and external. He must act with utmost fairness and according to the highest moral principles, consciously and consistently pursued.

RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Loyalty to the Organization. He should be loyal to the Organization he serves and work towards the attainment of its legitimate goals and objectives. Should he believe strongly that any goal, policy or directive of his Organization is immoral or otherwise illegal, he has an obligation to seek clarification and guidance. If his belief were to remain unshaken,

within reason, he should seek to have such a guideline rectified or removed. In an extreme situation, the Financial Executive should prefer to dissociate himself from the Organization, rather than be a party, whether actively or tacitly, to a grave injustice or fraud.

2. Keeping of Books and Records. He should fully, promptly and accurately document and reflect, in the

proper books and records, all business transactions of the Organization, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in consonance with the Organization's relevant guidelines and policies.

3. Resource Management. He should prudently manage and conscientiously safeguard the Organization's fund and assets, accurately re-

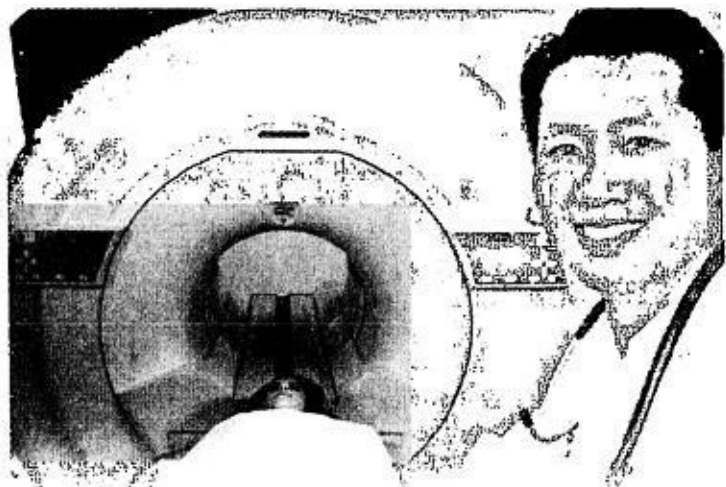
flecting them in the record and allowing access and withdrawals only in accordance with established Organization policies and procedures.

4. Conflict of Interest. He should act in the best interest of the Organization at all times, keeping himself away from situations which would tend to weaken his independence of judgment and action. He should not

ETHICS/B3-3

The Wiser Option

BPI LEASING answers all your questions on leasing.



Leasing vs. Financing

What's the difference between Leasing and Financing?

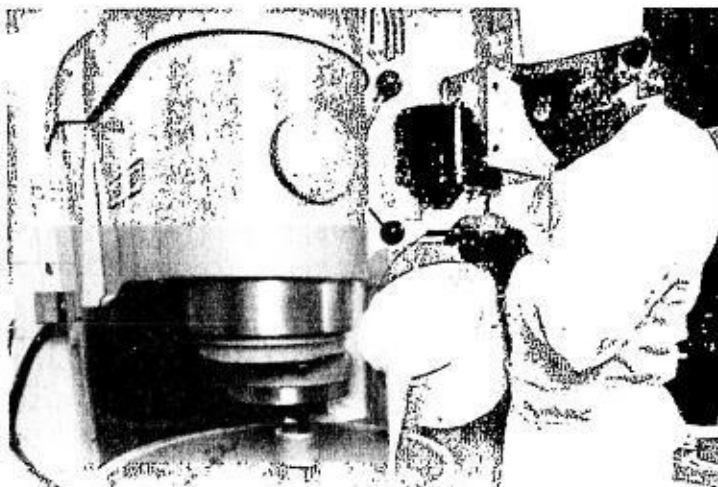
Under a lease, the lessor owns the leased asset. Under a loan, the borrower owns the equipment.

Which one requires a lesser initial cash outlay?

Normally, the borrower in a loan is required to pay a higher down payment of 20%-30% of the cost of the asset financed. BPI Leasing generally requires lower Guaranty Deposit from the lessee, and may finance up to 100% of the cost of the asset.

What other advantage does a lease have over a loan?

A loan secured for an equipment requires the borrower to pay Chattel Mortgage Fees. A lease does not require a mortgage on the asset. Thus, all things being equal, a lease is less costly than a loan.



Leasing vs. Buying

What is the main difference between leasing and buying?

Leasing and buying are two different methods of acquiring assets. The former finances the USE of an asset while the latter finances the OWNERSHIP of an asset.

What is the effect of owning an asset on your capital?

When you buy, you are giving your money away in exchange for the asset, which means you are tying up your capital over a period of time. Leasing does not have the same effect on your capital. Rather than investing the full amount at the beginning, your lease rentals allow for deferred payments tailored to your specific needs.

What other advantages does leasing have over buying?

At the end of the lease, you can return the asset or enter into a new lease for an upgraded model. This gives you a better competitive edge.



Why BPI Leasing?

Leasing is definitely more than just shopping around for better lease terms. Checking out what companies can actually offer is a smart move.

- We are the recognized leader with a reputation for reliability and innovative leasing solutions, backed by knowledgeable and highly experienced personnel.
- We are owned by BPI, one of the largest banks in the country, with over 150 years of solid banking leadership.
- We provide high value-added leasing programs designed not merely as financing options but as creative business solutions.
- Almost half of the country's Top 1,000 corporations lease from us, so you can rely on our LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE.
- We are known for our MARKET INNOVATIONS, like allowing our clients to view their account status and pay rentals via the Internet or through automatic debit arrangements.
- We are at pace with the latest market developments, and we strictly COMPLY TO INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.
- Our customers have the added convenience of choosing the type of lease that will give them optimum benefit -- finance lease or operating lease.

THE BENEFITS OF BPI LEASING

- **CONSERVE CAPITAL** by avoiding outright purchases that can tie up your company's funds in depreciating assets.
- **PRESERVE YOUR BANK CREDIT LINES** for other purposes.
- **ENJOY TAX-TIMING BENEFITS** because tax rental payments under an operating lease are fully tax-deductible.
- **SIMPLIFY YOUR BUDGET** with the fixed lease rental that protects your cash flow projections from inflation or fluctuations in interest rates.
- **ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE AND SAVINGS OF AUTOMATIC DEBIT ARRANGEMENT** that simplifies multiple periodic payments under a single collection.
- **AVOID EXPENSIVE MORTGAGE REGISTRATION COSTS** because unlike a loan, leasing generally does not require any collateral.

For a more detailed explanation of what we offer, and if you want us to come up with a leasing plan tailored to your company's needs, we will be more than happy to send a representative to your office.



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FINEX 2007 Messages



Warmest greetings to the officials and members of the Financial Executives of the Philippines (FINEX) as you celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week.

Your theme, "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," shows that FINEX is committed to constantly update financial executives of new trends in management in a seamless global economy. Since 1968, your organization has served as a forum for the development and advancement of its members, particularly in modern business practices, and in the promotion of business ethics and social involvement.

The Government, through Executive Order No. 34, has recognized the immense contribution of financial executives to the economy by declaring the second week of October of every year as Financial Executives Week. I ask you to take a lead in this observance by pushing our national agenda to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. Join me as we strive to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place infrastructure necessary to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty.

As active partners of government, I ask you to join me in our efforts to achieve a 7- to 8- percent growth rate in the next three years.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President, Republic of the Philippines



Warmest greetings to the participants and guests of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines as you commemorate the 39th Annual FINEX Week on 22-28 September 2007.

The theme of this year's celebration, "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," aptly bespeaks of the adherence of your institution to excellence and global competitiveness. Your endorsement of modern business practices, corporate ethics and social involvement brings the FINEX at par with the standards of your regional and universal counterparts.

The administration acknowledges the enormous contributions of financial decision makers in the enhancement of financial management, and the promotion of efficient and effective operations in the government and the corporate world as well.

I trust that FINEX will continue to support the national agenda of the present dispensation to beat the odds, achieve peace and sustainable growth, towards a strong Republic and a better future for the Filipinos.

Congratulations!

MARGARITO "GARY" B. TEVES

Secretary, Department of Finance



My warmest greetings to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) on your 39th Annual FINEX Week.

Your choice of theme: "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy" bespeaks of your understanding of the prerequisites of sustaining one's lead in modern day business.

Undoubtedly, FINEX's accomplishments in the last 39 years are concrete proofs of your dedication and unwavering commitment in the pursuit of your mission. Your growing membership demonstrates your success as an organization, while your many initiatives make you indeed the forum for the development and advancement of your members, specifically in the promotion not only of efficiency in business operations but of business ethics and social involvement as well.

In so doing, you remain an important and active partner of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in the sustained implementation of banking and capital market reforms aimed at ensuring the safe and sound operations of the financial system in a globalized economy. We, at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, are therefore counting on your continuing support.

Congratulations and more power!

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.

Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Our warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) as you celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week on 22-28 September 2007 under the theme "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy."

This is a most auspicious time to celebrate the 39th Annual FINEX Week - coming as it does at a time of renewed optimism on the back of continued momentum in our country's growth. In the first semester of 2007, our GDP expanded by an impressive 7.3% -- significantly higher than the 5.6% in the first half of 2006. Stable interest rates and inflation rates, a strong peso, a resilient agriculture sector, vibrant industry and services sectors, plus election-related spending and intensified infrastructure investments sustained an upbeat economy and an attractive business environment. Contributing to the first half growth was the services sector at 8.6% (vs. 6.2% in 2006) owing to the vigor of finance, transport, communication & storage, trade and private services, and industry at 7.2% (vs. 4.9% in 2006) courtesy of the robust mining and construction sectors. From the demand side, expansion in household expenditures and higher public and private sector construction spending boosted overall economic health. (Merchandise exports in the first half expanded by 6.6%, reaching US\$24.5 billion). A 16.6% increase in the net factor income from abroad (NFIA) due to continuing strong overseas workers remittances pushed up our GNP by 8.3% in the first semester - much better than the 6.4% in 2006.

Particularly notable, too, was the first semester's 30% increase in total investments registered with the BOI and PEZA to reach P130 billion. American businessmen topped the list of foreign investors in the first half with P26.3 billion worth of projects, followed by the Japanese with P12.7 billion. Top investment sectors included manufacturing, industrial service facilities, infrastructure, real estate, renewable energy/power generation, automotives, and IT services.

Even the local business sector is highly upbeat, with the country's leading business groups optimistic that this year's economic prospects will be better than last year's. This manifestation of strong investment confidence is buoyed by the positive reforms put in place by government, such as improved revenue collections, implementation of flagship infrastructure projects, and prudent government spending. To sustain this confidence, government is continuing to institute measures to help investors transact with the government with greater ease and transparency. The DTI, for one, continues to streamline its frontline services to reduce the cost of doing business and eradicate red tape in business transactions for the benefit of investors particularly SMEs. Indeed, both investors and financial institutions welcome the aggressive reforms pursued by the government, which the latter hopes to sustain to generate investments, jobs, social reforms, and services, and build on top of our gains.

Towards these ends, the Philippine government continues to network and collaborate closely with its partners in the private sector in fostering an environment conducive to doing business, in promoting entrepreneurship, in increasing and sustaining investments, in pursuing reform measures, in empowering consumers, and in exercising good governance. In these formidable tasks, financial executives who compose FINEX have a huge role to play in improving financial management and in promoting efficiency in government and business operations to achieve our goals of global competitiveness. The knowledge, skills, expertise, and collective pro-active stance of FINEX member professionals, entrepreneurs, public servants and academicians who help formulate strategic policies and decisions are, indeed, critical factors for the Philippine economy to "be ahead in a globalized economy."

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA

Secretary

Department of Trade & Industry

On behalf of the City Government of Baguio and the whole of our city's constituency, allow me to extend good wishes to the member-participants to the Financial Executives (FINEX) Institute of the Philippines 39th National Conference in our endeared city of pines.

Indeed, nothing could be more laudable than an interaction where avenues for sharing of knowledge and expertise are highlighted, if only to charter our country's economic fate to greater height.

After all, the task of determining our country's most exalted expression entails a combined effort of government, civil society and other sectors of our community. Verily, it is not the task of government to empower people; but it is up for the people to empower themselves.

To this I say, thank you for empowering yourselves for by doing so, we are sure that our economy is in good hands as you strive to "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy."

Rest assured that our local government shall remain supportive of such endeavors. May you have a most fruitful learning experience and the most memorable sharing of meaningful absurdities. Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

REINALDO A. BAUTISTA, JR.

Mayor

Baguio City

Greetings to all members and friends of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines!

We invite you to be one with us in this week-long celebration of the 39th year of FINEX.

The members of the organizing committee, in collaboration with the Cooperatives and Small & Medium Enterprises, Good Governance, and LGU Committees, have invited interesting speakers to share with us their invaluable experiences in the light of our theme "Be Ahead in a Globalized Economy," with entrepreneurship as the main thrust.

The Affiliates, Sports and Recreation, and Fellowship Committees have also lined up activities to add enjoyment to the celebration. Not forgetting our social responsibility, the Social Involvement Committee organized a feeding and community outreach program to connect with our less fortunate brothers.

All these were made possible with the tireless support of the sub-committees in charge of Technical Sessions, Exhibits, Budget, Ways and Means, Souvenir Program, Newspaper Supplements and the Hotel and Physical Arrangements.

In behalf of the FINEX Week Committee, I thank our corporate sponsors and advertisers for making this event a success.

CARMEN V.F. SERINA

Chairperson, FINEX Week Committee

In this era of globalization, the worldwide economic pie continues to grow. The global environment has become more competitive and the pace of change continues to accelerate. If the Philippines must survive economically and continue to grow as a nation, we must see to it that our country be not left behind. We must be shaken out of our complacency and go beyond our limited vision.

FINEX, as a nationwide organization, should and must always be a strong forum to remind our government, our people that we must compete; that we must acquire all the knowledge that will give us the edge; that we must not be afraid to ask for new structures, to seek new leaders, to promote new values and a new national vision; that we must push ahead and be ahead in this competitive global environment.

Globalization can't be stopped; the quiet times are gone forever. Action, decision, and energy are the order of the day to help our nation achieve its objectives. Kung hindi tayo magtutulungan, sino pa ang tutulong sa atin? Kung hindi tayo kikilos ngayon, kailan pa?

We must move on. Life can be better.

(Sgd.) **ABELARDO V. GORTEZ**

FINEX President

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A World of Opportunity Awaits the Filipino Nurse

Sept. 28-30, 2007, Megatrade Hall 2

MEGATRADE HALL MEGAMALL
Mandaluyong City

The Philippines is one of the best sources of nurses in the world because of their innate professionalism and caring nursing care. Because of the high demand for Filipino nurses, a significant number of nurses work abroad and has become a major source of dollar remittances to the country making them a significant contributor to the economy of the country.

There are more than 69,000 nursing graduates who took the recent June 2007 Board exams and around 700,000 student nurses who aim to emulate the success of Filipino nurses abroad but who is unaware of the range of opportunities open for them.

Add to this the sizeable number of newly licensed nurses (more than 25,000 passed the June 2007 Board Exams) and even the current number of practicing Nurses who are on the look-out for opportunities and who are poised to decide what next to do, go for additional training, gain hospital experience, take the IELTS, CGFNS or NCLEX where to work as a Nurse -- US, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, to name a few.

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A World of Opportunity Awaits the Filipino Nurse



UP-Iloilo tops ICFC elims

UP-Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, La Salle Bacolod take next 3 spots

The recently concluded 9TH ICFC Eliminations was held last Sep. 21, 2007 at various sites all over the Philippines. UP-Iloilo bested 68 other schools to take the top place in the eliminations. This is the first time that a non-NCR team has won the eliminations. The finals will be held on Oct. 15, 2007 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Auditorium. This year also marks the first year a foreign school (Singapore Management University) will be participating in the Finals. The Singapore team was automatically seeded in the finals and will join the Top 20 teams from the eliminations.

The ICFC is an annual competition among universities and colleges sponsored by the JFinex Committee headed by Mark Yu with Tony Boy Ongsiako as Lalason Director.

University of the Philippines - Iloilo	470	1
University of the Philippines - Diliman	420	2
Ateneo de Manila University	420	2
University of St. La Salle - Bacolod	365	4
University of the East - Manila	360	5
MSU - Iligan Institute of Technology	360	5
University of San Carlos	330	7
Far Eastern University - Manila	320	8
New Era University	320	8
De La Salle University - Dasmariñas	305	10
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan	305	10
Silliman University	300	12
Polytechnic University of the Philippines	295	13
University of Santo Tomas	290	14
De La Salle University - Lipa	285	15
De La Salle University - Manila	270	16
Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation	265	17
University of the Visayas	265	17
Ateneo de Davao University	265	17
University of Baguio	260	20



Kapit-bisig sa Kaunlaran

Sama-sama tayong naghagad, kapit-bisig na nagsusumikap at sa pagharap sa kinabukasan, tayo pa rin ang makikibahagi sa kaunlaran ng ating bayan—sa bawat pamilya, pamayanan, sa probinsya man o lungsod.

Kaya't sa aming ika-44 na taon, patuloy nating pagtibayin ang samahan at ang inaasam na kasaganahang ating kakamtin.

1963-2007



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming Bayan

National Conference Sept. 28, 2007 Camp John Hay - Convention Center

08:00am - 08:20am 08:20am - 08:35am	Registration Ribbon Cutting	Hon. Reynaldo A. Bautista Jr. City Mayor, Baguio Baguio Colleges PP Santiago M. Dumiao Mr. Abelardo V. Cortez FINEX President
08:35am - 08:50am 08:50am - 08:55am 08:55am - 09:10am	Parade of Colors/National Anthem Invocation Opening Remarks	Hon. Reynaldo A. Bautista Jr. FINEX EVP Grace P. Tiongo Sec. Peter B. Favila Secretary Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
09:10am - 09:20am 09:20am - 09:25am 09:25am - 9:45am	Welcome Remarks Introduction of Sec. Peter B. Favila "Entrepreneurship and the Government Economic Growth Agenda" Key Note Speech ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: "How A Financial Executive Can Graduate To Become A Successful Entrepreneur" Introduction of Speakers by Emcee	PP Edgardo L. Limon President INTECH HOLDINGS CORPORATION Mr. Emmanuel V. Dueñas President/CEO ACTRON INDUSTRIES, INC. Ms. Carolina T. Mahar President/CEO KARTINI ASIA Mr. Napoleon T. Cabello and Mr. Rufino G. Ibay Panelists PP Dave L. Balangue Chairman, FINEX Foundation Mr. Senen C. Bacani Chairman/President LA FRUTERA, INC. PP Vic Y. Lim Panelist
09:45am - 10:05am		
10:05am - 10:10am 10:10am - 10:30am		
10:30am - 10:50am		
10:50am - 11:10am		
11:10am - 11:30am	Open Forum	
11:30am - 11:35am	Introduction of Mr. Senen Bacani	
11:35pm - 11:55am	"Entrepreneur As An Agent of Change"	
11:55am - 12:15pm	Open forum	
12:15pm - 01:15pm 01:15pm - 01:20pm	Lunch Introduction of Mr. Samie Lim	FINEX EVP Grace P. Tiongo
01:20pm - 01:40pm	"The Franchising Route To Entrepreneurship"	Mr. Samie Lim President/Chairman Emeritus Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Philippine Franchise Association PP Edwin V. Fernandez Panelist
01:40pm - 02:00pm	Open Forum	
02:00pm - 02:20pm 02:20pm - 02:25pm 02:25pm - 02:45pm	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: "The Challenges Of Being An Entrepreneur" Introduction of Speakers by Emcee	Mr. Roberto S. Claudio TOBY's Group of Companies Mr. Celestino Reyes Rayes Hair Cutters Mr. Carlo Anthony Dobles President SPOOFS UNLIMITED INC. Ms. Jasmin Agbon of Cagayan de Oro Mr. Ruben Almendras of Cebu Panelists Mr. Rex S.L. Resurreccion and Mrs. Angie B. Resurreccion PASSION FOR PERFECTION
02:45pm - 03:05pm 03:05pm - 03:25pm		
03:25pm - 03:45pm	Open Forum	
03:45pm - 04:30pm	Entrepreneurial Diagnostics	
04:30pm - 4:35pm	Closing Masters of Ceremonies	PP Santil F. Dumiao and PP Melito S. Salazar Jr.

Code of Ethics for the Financial Executive

From page B3-1

only avoid the fact, but also the appearance of conflict of interest.

5. Relationship with Employees. He should treat employees under his supervision and control with fairness, objectivity and consideration. He should create an atmosphere conducive to the proper performance of their duties, to their compliance with the Organization's rules and policies and to their continuous professional development. He should observe due process, with a fine regard for employees' human, legal and contractual right.

6. Compliance with Laws. He should comply with all government laws and regulations, abstaining from any action or activity which may be violative of the same.

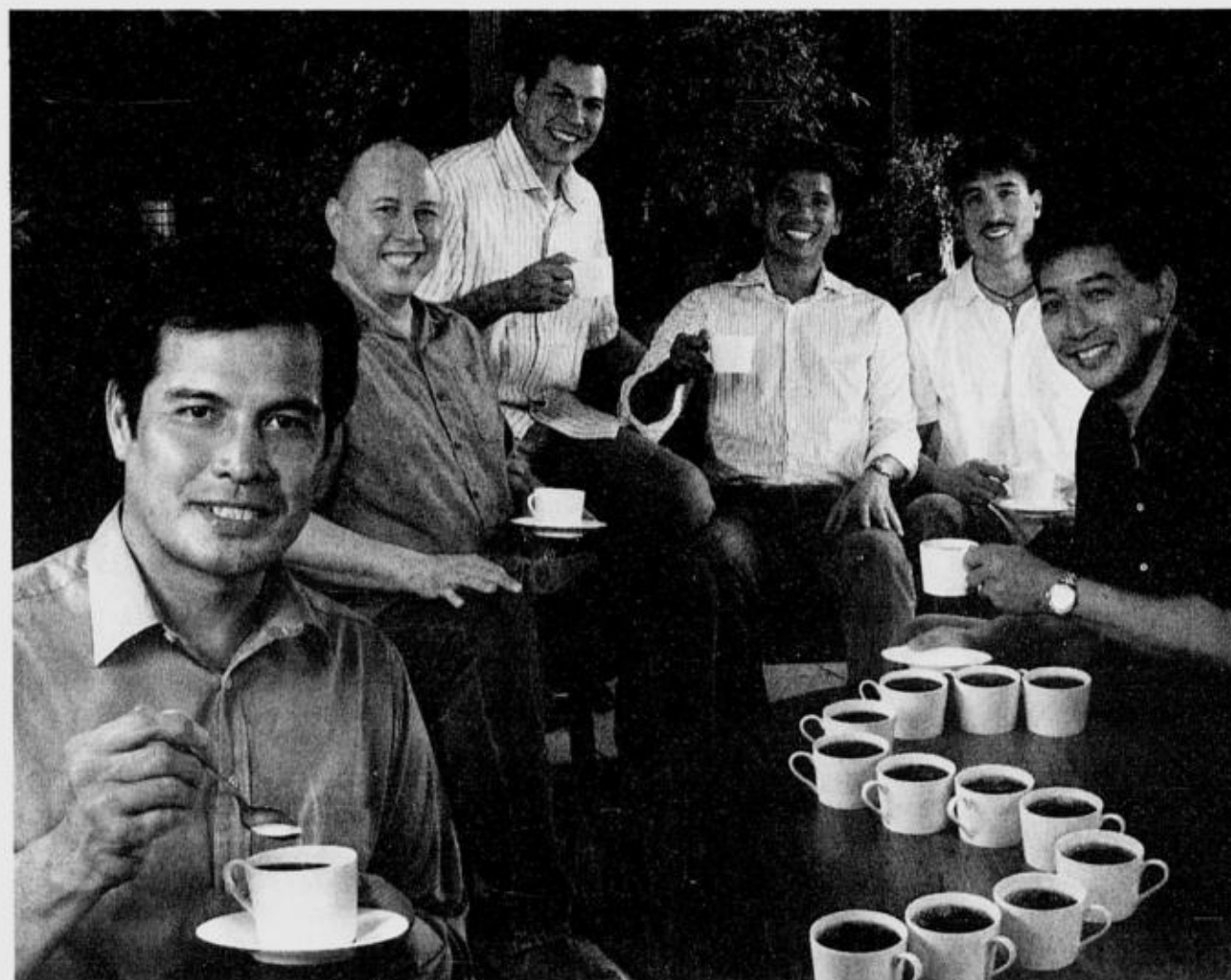
7. Contractual Obligations. He should observe strictly the terms and conditions of existing contracts and agreements entered into by the Organization he serves with particular attention to the compliance with the financial terms and conditions of such contracts.

8. Relationship with Third Parties. He

should promote honesty and fairness in the Organization's relationships with its creditors, customers, suppliers, competitors and with the public at large. He should support clean, healthy competition and the free play market forces.

9. Professional Development, Social and Civic Involvement. He should consciously undertake efforts to upgrade his skills as a financial executive, so that he may consistently render a high level of service to the Organization he serves. He should, likewise, widen his own perspectives by participating in building-up the partnership between his Organization and the community in which it operates, and in balancing their respective interests.

10. Moral Uprightness. While recognizing his own right to privacy, he should nevertheless conduct his private and personal life with due consideration to his position in the management hierarchy, avoiding acts which would tend to reflect adversely on the Organization or to set an improper example for employees.



Alvin Patrimonio • Chito Loyzaga • Peter Martin • Hector Calma • Samboy Lim • Allan Caidic

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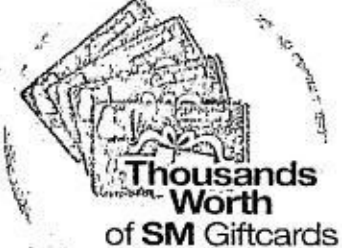
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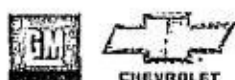
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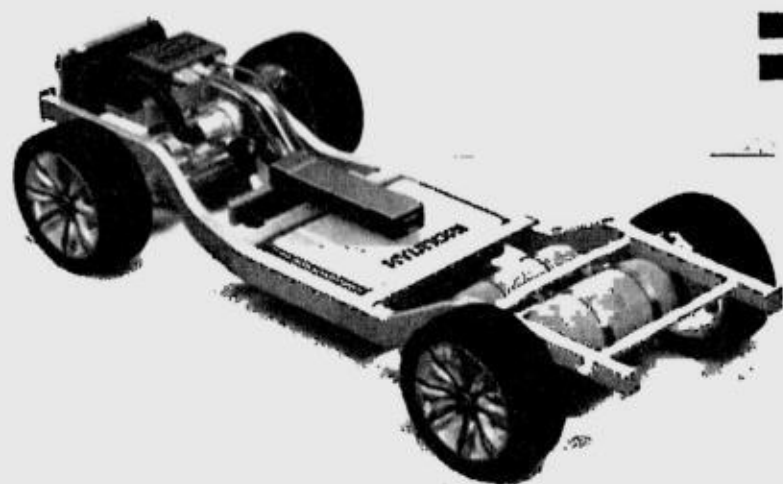
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Special PROJECT ROADTALK

B4

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Editor Aries Espinosa



Hundai Motor Company's new hydrogen-powered, zero-emission concept, the i-Blue Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), made its world debut recently at the 62nd International Motor Show in Frankfurt, Germany. Developed at Hyundai's design and technical center in Chiba, Japan, the i-Blue concept is the designers' view of a future FCEV production model. The all-new i-Blue platform is tailored to incorporate Hyundai's third-generation fuel cell technology, currently being developed at Hyundai's Eco-Technology Research Institute in Mabuk, Korea.

Keeping with the show theme, "See What's Driving the Future," which focuses on sustainability and climate protection, the i-Blue demonstrates a significant step towards commercialization of Hyundai fuel cell vehicles. Unlike its predecessors which were built on SUV platforms, the i-Blue features a new D segment 2+2 crossover utility vehicle (CUV) body type. The smaller vehicle platform requires even greater engineering sophistication. This marks a step ahead on the path to develop mass-production models, as the fuel cell system is more difficult to integrate in a smaller body type.

"The i-Blue is Hyundai's first-ever model designed from the ground up to incorporate fuel cell technology, marking a tremendous leap forward for our R&D program," said Dr. Hyun-Soon Lee, president of research and development. "Our engineering team has successfully designed a more compact fuel cell vehicle, while still realizing the safety, comfort, convenience and driving range of a traditional internal combustion engine vehicle."

Hyundai is making tremendous efforts to reach mass production of hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles a reality in the next decade.

3rd-generation fuel cell technology

The i-Blue is powered by a 100-kW electrical engine and fuel cell stack. Fueled with compressed hydrogen (700 bar) stored in a 115-liter tank, i-Blue is capable of running more than 600 km per refueling and achieves a maximum speed of 165 kph.

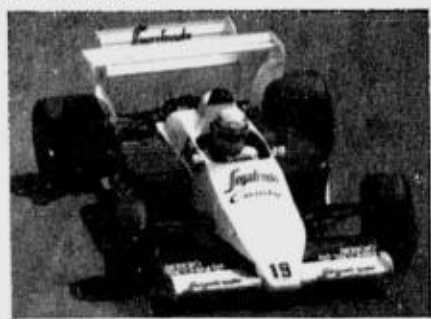
Racer's edge is in the wheel

WHEEL GALLERY, THE COMPANY WHO popularized the "Bling" phenomena in the country, takes the level of competition up a notch with the launch of England's finest, Avon Tires and one of America's most popular brands, Starfire tires. Launched recently at the Wheel Gallery 5th Anniversary bash, Sammy Lison, president of Wheel Gallery, presented the ZZ3. "The superb grip of the ZZ3 gives drivers plenty of advanced warning to slow down and provide a great feeling of confidence," explains Lison. Starfire, on the other hand, uses Cooper technology and undergoes the same stringent quality and testing requirements as Cooper and Avon tires. Visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan, or call 724-2739 or 726-0965 or log on to www.conceptnewwheels.com.



Senna's choice

TWENTY YEARS ON SINCE AYTORN Senna's first victory in the Principality of Monaco, Massimo Zanetti Beverage Group celebrates the memory of the Brazilian champion at the Monte Carlo Circuit. The Monaco Senna Celebration, as sponsored by the famous Italian café Segafredo Zanetti, recently revived the unforgettable moments of the great champion's life and career by recreating the Monegasque circuit and displaying a unique collection of personal belongings. In the Philippines, enjoy a slice of Italy and taste the espresso and pasta enjoyed by Ayrton Senna at Segafredo Zanetti, Greenhills situated at the IEB Building, corner of Wilson Street and Ortigas Avenue. Bellissimo!



The i-Blue's fuel cell stack is housed underfloor, not in the engine compartment as in the second-generation Tucson FCEV. This endows the car with an ideal 50:50 weight distribution for optimal driving and handling dynamics. Furthermore, by moving the fuel stack underfloor, the engine compartment is less densely populated, providing better air flow and cooling. The i-Blue drives almost noiselessly and passionate drivers will be delighted by the acceleration of the i-Blue's powerplant. Like its predecessors, i-Blue's only emission is water vapor, fueling Hyundai's unwavering dedication to FCEV technology as a

viable, environmentally friendly alternative to the internal combustion engine.

Concept sports tourer

The i-Blue is a sophisticated and futuristic crossover concept sports tourer with the driving comfort of a sedan with all of the utility functions of a minivan. As its name suggests, the i-Blue has a next-generation environmental-friendly fuel cell system. But, it also is equipped with a state-of-the-art human machine interface information system presenting a glimpse into the future of automobiles.

Uniting Ying and Yang

The i-Blue FCEV has a dynamic and elegant exterior design, resembling TaeKuk, which is based on the philosophy of Ying and Yang. In this philosophy, opposite forces are unified in perfect balance and create something new. The i-Blue's body was styled by unifying two distinct geometric forms, the square and the circle, thereby creating a rhombus-like shape.

The i-Blue features a futuristic H2O flow-form on the inside, which results in a relaxing, stretched-out seating position for the driver and passengers.

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'Laguna da Bay-sikel'

By Aries B. Espinosa

Photos by Eugene Araneta, Gerry Jano and Anne Jambora

NEWSPAPER BOYS AND GIRLS ARE KNOWN DEADLINE beaters. That's an immovable, universal, and unarguable truth. But could they beat this deadline: bike around the 220-km Laguna de Bay within 12 hours?

Now that's a challenge requiring more than just the power of the pen.

In fact, they would need to put their most powerful legs forward tens of thousands of times, and put their foot down—and up (on the pedal)—as many times.

The distance solicits a collective gasp of disbelief among the colleagues I threw this dare on. "Impossible" was mentioned not a few times. But was there ever a difficult challenge not worth undertaking?

"And it's there. So why not do it?" That seemed to convince them, once and for all.

So, we took on the challenge last Sunday. It was a drizzling 6 in the morning as we started the tour from the UP Diliman oval.

Here's a pictorial "timeline" of our ordeal, er, adventure.

Other bikers who may want to do their own single-day 200-km ride would find the Laguna de Bay loop convenient. It's near Metro Manila, and there are lots of refreshment/food stops along the way. Plenty of Spanish-era churches and majestic views of Laguna de Bay gives you an excuse to bring your high-tech digital cameras.

On the downside, you will be sharing the well-paved roads with smoke-belching jeeps and trucks (especially in areas nearer Metro Manila). Better have your face masks ready when you take on this route.

We won't "bike around the bushes," so to speak. To make a long story short, well, we ended up short of our target by around 60 km. By the time we were in Calamba, 160 km into the route, it was already too dark, and Sunday traffic back to Metro Manila was too congested. With heavy hearts (and thighs), we loaded our bikes on our support vehicles and called it a day.

Our conclusion: The 220-km route is still doable—if we cut back on our kodakan stops. But then, we groaned, where's the fun in that?

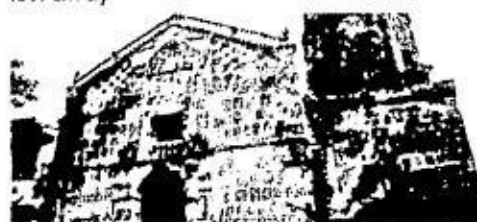
(The Inquirer Cycling Club was guided and paced by Cycling Advocates and Adventures (Cycad) led by Ramoncito "Monchie" Garcia. Biker groups who wish to tie up with Cycad can call Monchie at 0918-7942803. Extra bike loading capacity was provided by Thule roof racks. To know how to load up your own ride with 100-percent Swedish machine made ISO-quality racks, call Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue (744-6367) and Pasong Tamo (892-7847), or visit www.thule.com).



7 a.m. Snack time at Bangyad, Taytay, 15 km away



6:15 a.m. We leave UP Diliman with jerseys and nostrils still clean



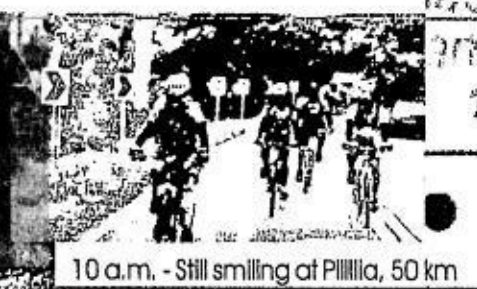
9:15 a.m. - Baras Church, 41 km



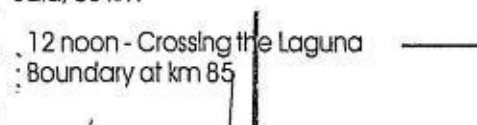
8 a.m. - Breakfast in Morong, Rizal, 36 km away



10:30 a.m. Flat land all the way to Jala-Jala, 65 km



10 a.m. - Still smiling at Piliilla, 50 km



12 noon - Crossing the Laguna de Bay Boundary at km 85



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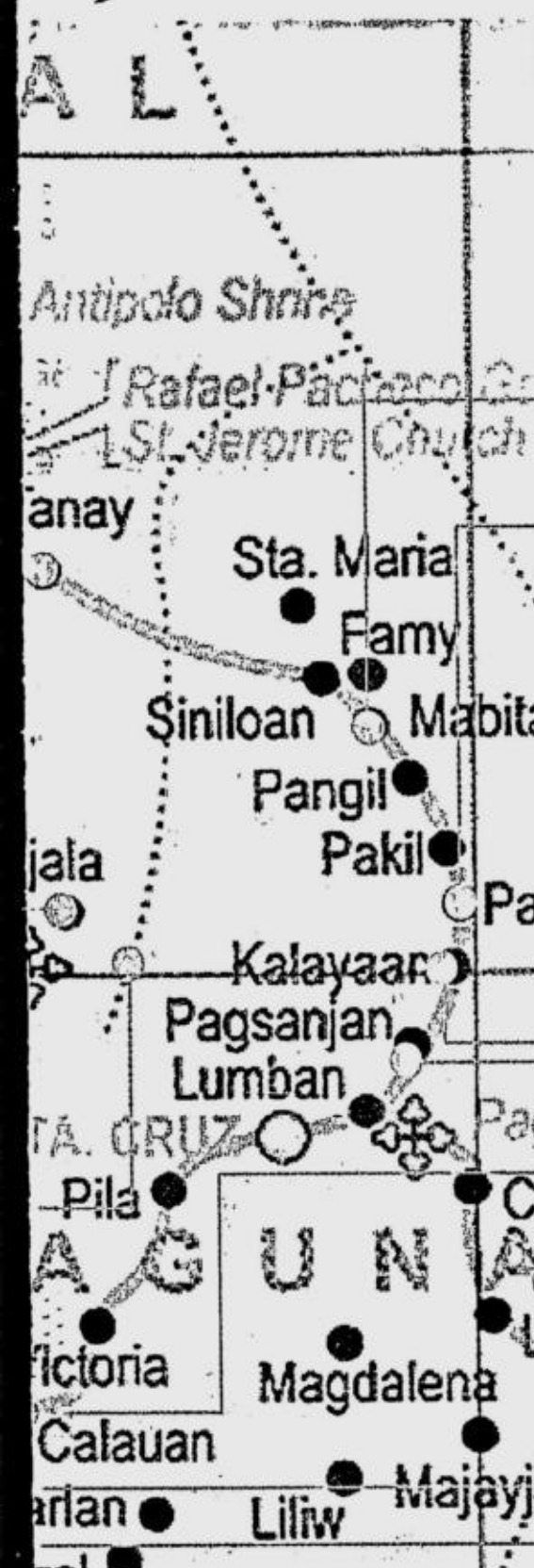
ATI-DLSU's Book Mobile

IN ITS GOAL TO SHARE LA SALLIAN EDUCATION WITH the young and impoverished, De La Salle Lipa (DLSL) gears up for the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program. Conceived in 2004 as a brainchild of DLSL president Bro. Mawel Pajarillo FSC, the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program is a concrete and relevant La Sallian response to the human and spiritual distresses of poor Filipino children in public elementary schools who have little or no access to quality learning materials. Early this year, the ATI Group Inc., together with the La Salle Greenhills Batches 1976 and 1984 and the De La Salle University Mechanical Engineering Batch 1981 donated an Isuzu micro bus to the De La Salle Book Mobile and Reading Program. Dubbed as the Book Shuttle, it will transport DLSL volunteers to public schools and communities. "I decided to spearhead this educational campaign to jumpstart it the soonest time possible," says Antonio T. Inducil, CEO of ATI Group. At turnover ceremonies of the Book Mobile are (from left): Hec Gloria, special assistant to the president; Martin Diaz de Rivera of ATI Group; Bro. Manuel "Mawel" Pajarillo, president of DLSL and Corazon Abansi PhD, vice chancellor for academics and research. Those who wish to donate to the Bookmobile and Reading Program can log on to www.dlsu.edu.com.

Bright eyes at night

IF THE BEAM OF LIGHT COMING FROM YOUR STOCK headlights doesn't help you see much, then Xenon Bulbs High Intensity Discharge (HID) lights might just be the safety equipment that you require. Exclusively distributed by Hummer Philippines Inc., Xenon-Bulbs run on the electric power of the battery. HID lamps provide more light than that produced by halogen lamps, but use only two-thirds the power. And because there is no filament to burn out, these bulbs are claimed to last for as much as 161,000 km of driving time. "This performance results in more light on the road surface and more of the roadway being illuminated," said Xenon Bulbs Philippines general manager Benedict Go. Xenon gas-ignited bulbs consume just 35 watts, which makes the headlights cooler to touch. Go also warns the buying public on buying run-of-the-mill Xenon lamps from China being sold as the cheaper alternative. "Our ballasts are made from Germany by Philips. Our products come with a no-questions-asked warranty," adds Go. To know more about how to increase the level of safety during night driving, call 716-0348 or 713-1998, or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com.





12:30 p.m. - Mabitac at km 90



1:15 p.m. The smile is turning bitter at Paete, 104 km



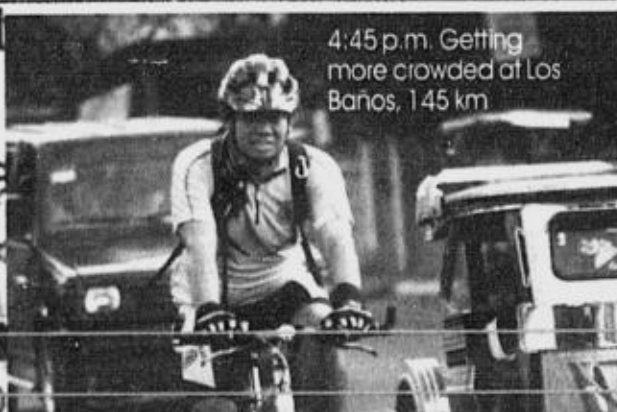
Lunch at 2:30 p.m. in Exotik Restaurant. Thankfully, the python there was just for display



3:20 p.m. Raining in Pagsanjan at 115 km



4 p.m. - Calauan at 134 km



4:45 p.m. Getting more crowded at Los Baños, 145 km



5:30 p.m. - Pack up! Bikes are loaded on sturdy Thule roof racks at Calamba, journey's end at 160 km

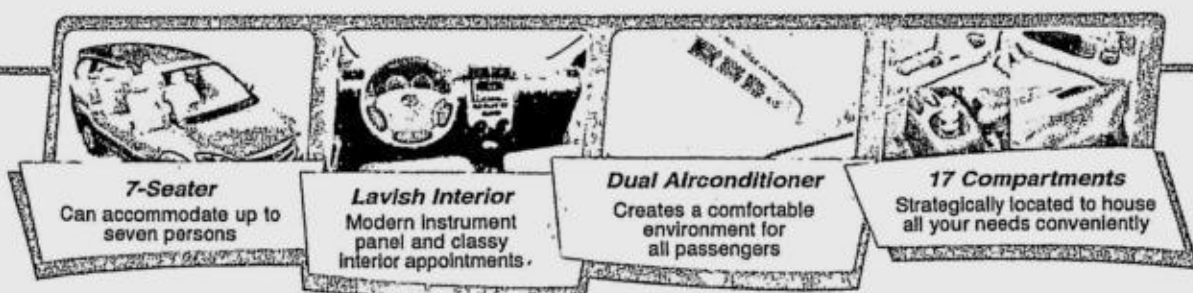
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Special PROJECT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

KILL Switch

By Raymond Tribbino

Underbone undertones

FOR THE LONGEST TIME I have restrained myself on commenting about what one reader called the "black sheep" of the motorcycling community. I have always held the position that all things taken equal, all motorcyclists are decent, law-abiding citizens, happily and responsibly sharing the roads with the same respect and courtesy as other roads users.

Oh how blind was I! (At the very least, now I realize, I always had one eye closed.) Last Saturday on my way back to Laguna from a rather hectic day in Manila, two helmet-less underbone-riding lads sideswiped my car, breaking the side mirror and forcing me off my lane as I tried to avoid them. I almost front ended an

oncoming tricycle as I tried to keep my lumbering diesel SUV in line.

Since the traffic in the almost-urbanized Calamba is worse than a blood clot after downing a plate of sizzling sisig, the two riders escaped without me having the benefit of even a chase. It was a wake up call. After years and years of letting their little venial sins pass, I am now confounded with an unforgivable mortal sin of riding. And the sinners never even considered a confession.

The sad part of this whole episode is that here I am writing against the motorcycling community I consciously chose to defend, because I have become a victim of its inequity. But justice needs to be done.

I am not going to stereotype the normal underbone rider as unruly and brash, discourteous and uncouth. What I want to say is that because of their

sheer numbers, the underbone rider has become a target for motorists, car drivers and motorcyclists alike.

It is a disturbing fact of Philippine motoring now. Based on total industry volume underbones outnumber cars 6:1. And in any given time, on any given stretch of road, any of these one-cylinder contraptions will most likely do any of the following: counterflow, pass in the blind side, cutting bigger cars and trucks and sneaking into every available space of asphalt or concrete available.

The result: utter underbone mayhem.

Ninety percent of the time you will see underbone riders ride without helmets. The 10 percent who do wear helmets are also the 10 percent who use side mirrors, turn their signal lights on when turning and keep in their lane despite the itch to overtake on a double yellow line.

One reader, Filemon Yumul, writes an additional dimension. He says "I have not seen drivers of motorcycles 400cc and above drive with suicidal recklessness. True-I have seen

a lot of flaming burnouts done by overzealous big bike riders, but they seem to always choose a judicious time and place to do it."

He goes on to say, "the tendency of many of us four-wheelers to regard them (big bikers) with respect on the road. But the aforementioned underbone and similar bike wielding citizens however, display poor judgment every single day that I encounter them on the road. I'm not saying that every biker I see does it. But I swear that over the last four years, not a single day has passed where I find myself on the road and not seen the deplorable driving habits of riders."

I share Mr Yumul's frustration, noting that the discourteous acts and disrespectful driving habits of underbone riders "explain the persistently growing bias against two wheelers." One would think it was logical that the cost of the vehicle would have a direct correlation on how one rides.

There is a lot of logic there. Mr Yumul says "it would seem that the more expensive your bike, the more grey mat-

ter resides under the helmet (or lack thereof). And it seems the greater the vulnerability, the less the regard of the rider for his own safety." Spot on?

It may hurt, but remember, I have absolutely no intention of lumping together everyone into one basket of rotten eggs. But the motorcycling community must bring to the attention of our erring brothers that it just needs a lot of common sense and respect for other road users to get credibility and integrity back to our side. The side of motorcyclists.

Let me end this column by again quoting Mr Yumul, "I guess the conclusion that this long-winded expulsion of frustration is getting to is that the majority of the motorcycle riders in this country are reaping what they are sowing."

"There can be no counter to the argument that the continuing discrimination is a result of the fact that the majority of two wheelers in this country consciously and consistently induce mayhem and anarchy on our roads."

Send your comments to: kill-switch.roadtalk@gmail.com.

Ask GIBS

Mechanic-at-large
Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs:

I would just like to ask if air filters, or a class of air filters, can affect performance in terms of fuel efficiency and power of diesel engines. Some say that there are special kinds of air filters that can even increase the performance of diesel engines, such as the K & N brand. Is it true?

Roldan P

Dear Roldan:

Air filter brands such as K&N, Shimota, Ramflow, and HKS are all free flow and are of good quality. They do work a solid 3 to 5-percent increase in power and fuel economy. However, they are quite loud. Thanks for writing!

For your questions or comments, e-mail askgibs.roadtalk@gmail.com.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan, with the adventurous and sophisticated in mind

THE CHEVROLET AVEO SEDAN promises to captivate the young and sophisticated motorist with its fresh, colorful spirit and modern design. The Aveo Sedan's concept includes the most spacious interior in its class, delivered in luxury and comfort, and world-class production standards that guarantee its quality.

The Aveo Sedan is Chevrolet's response to discriminating customers who dare to stand out. The 1.4L Aveo's long list of equipment and features, which includes the high-performance Euro suspension tuning system, ensures that it will deliver the best value with the most competitive pricing in its class. In addition to its superior design,

every component used in the Aveo Sedan's production process is guaranteed to be of international standard quality marked with Chevrolet's brand heritage. It's a car that truly makes a statement.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan features a body-frame that gives it a large appearance and stylishly spacious interior, at the same time providing superior comfort levels with plenty of leg and headroom that will easily accommodate up to five passengers.

The Chevrolet Aveo Sedan's front grille was designed to look bigger and wider, while the Chevrolet bowtie logo was enlarged. Frontal lamps are multi-focus reflectors, which feature the

front high beam/low beam and signal lights in a single casing. The front engine hood sports likewise a stylish design to go with the rest of the car and to match the new front grille and frontal lamps.

The sides of the Chevrolet Aveo Sedan feature flared wheel arches, allowing it to achieve a more aggressive sporty look. Side view mirrors come in two-tone colors and are larger than before, which gives better visibility and clearer view of traffic. The rear stands out with a triangular shaped tail lamp casing, which hides two round lamps and a rear fog light. The 3rd brake light is embedded on the rear window area, which achieves a neat and tidy appearance and avoids the usual protrusion problems of other antennae.

Large air vents come in the innovative round designs, which allow you to rotate them 360 degrees for better air flow adjustability and optimal dispersion of cool air inside the vehicle.

Front seats can be adjusted forwards and backwards and are also height adjustable. Compartments are designed into the sides of the seats for extra functionality and practicality.



The Aveo Sedan comes with top-of-the-line safety features such as dual airbags, ABS, 3rd brake lamp and front and rear fog lamps.

The Chevrolet Aveo is available in two variants, a 5-speed manual transmission (P650,000) and a 4-speed automatic (P690,000).

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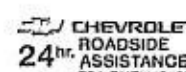
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MOSCHINO



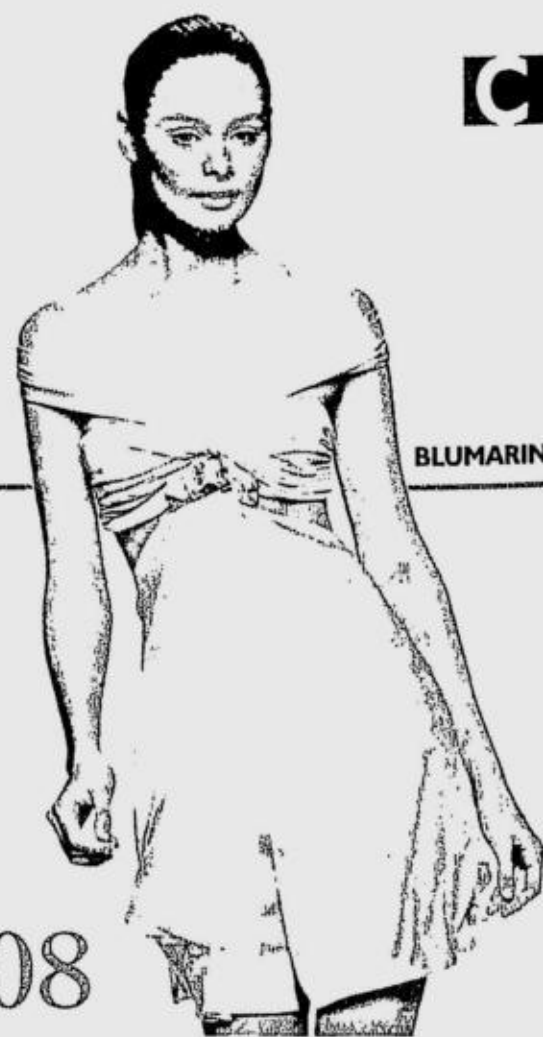
LA PERLA

MILAN FASHION WEEK

Light and airy for Spring/Summer '08



PRADA



BLUMARINE

MILAN—After one of northern Europe's wettest summers on record, fashion designers showing in Milan this week are confidently predicting more seasonal sunshine next year for their airy, light-as-a-feather creations.

Certainly Miuccia Prada did not have downpours in mind when she sent out her models like a flock of fragile butterflies, all a-flutter in outfits fit for Tinkerbell.

Each body-hugging frock had a second sheer silk layer superimposed, giving an iridescent halo effect in pale pinks, watery greens or aubergine, printed with delicate Asian-inspired motifs.

Voluminous skirts and dresses in green and white silk or gilt leather were a modern take on aristocratic costume before the French Revolution.

At Bottega Veneta, the silhouette was fluid in the house's hallmark dusty pastels, with dresses cinched in the waist and brushing the calf, discretely luxurious with hand-finished details.

The lingerie-led brand La Perla, as ever, remained undecided whether to show outerwear or underwear, and often opted for a mixture of the two, like a bra worn on top of a dress like a breastplate at the front, but plunging into the material at the back, or another bra half-exposed under a blouse with a single sleeve.

At Blumarine the collection was short and very sexy, Saint Tropez chic. Anna Molinari teamed baby-doll dresses in girly turquoise, primrose and pale pink with bikers' leather jackets in bright colors.

Hot pants came in sand or even bright orange knit, with little lace-edged tops or waiters' waistcoats covered in mother-of-pearl, some just held together by a tiny clip between the breasts.

At Iceberg the mood was rock 'n' roll, with lashings of black leather and rhinestones mixed with gold plastic for skimpy dresses and cropped jackets with wide sleeves. AFP

IF YOU THINK GLUTATHIONE IS ONLY FOR SKIN WHITENING, YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE!

The popularity of glutathione has focused mainly on its skin whitening properties.

But unknown to most, glutathione brings with it a host of amazing health benefits never before found in one supplement and which are crucial to survival in today's world.

WHY IS GLUTATHIONE IMPORTANT?

Glutathione is special because it is both fat soluble and water soluble. Being so, it is active throughout the body. As an anti-oxidant, and the 'master anti-oxidant' at that, glutathione neutralizes free radicals thereby protecting healthy cells from damage. Glutathione also acts as a chelator – it binds to and escorts out of the body heavy metals and other contaminants that cause the free radical damage. Glutathione is an important part of the liver's detoxification system because it helps to remove metabolic waste. It also plays a major role in transporting amino acids into cells.

SUPPLEMENTATION IS A NECESSITY

Research has found that glutathione prevents oxidative stress in most cells, and protects the DNA and RNA. As we age, glutathione levels drop. Low levels mean less protection from diseases like cancer, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease which flourish when the body has insufficient anti-oxidant protection. In view of these dangers, supplementation of glutathione is important.

GLUTATHIONE SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

With the proliferation of glutathione supplements, stories of users who have been victimized by substandard products have also increased. They remind us to be careful in choosing the brand of glutathione to use. In this regard, it is important to know that not all glutathione supplements are the same.

REDUCED IS SUPERIOR TO UN-REDUCED

Unknown to many, glutathione is available in two forms: reduced or unreduced. Most brands, like the cheap ones flooding the market, are in the unreduced form. MET TATHIONE, on the other hand, is 100% premium-grade reduced glutathione imported from Japan. All the raw materials that go into the manufacture of MET TATHIONE are also made in Japan, the most trusted source of supplemental glutathione in the world today. Reduced glutathione doesn't mean less or inferior. It is, in fact, the scientific term used by knowledgeable dermatologists and medical practitioners to describe the highest grade and safest form of glutathione available in the market. As proof, the Woodlands Healing Research Center in Philadelphia, USA, declared that "glutathione must be in the reduced form to work properly. The unreduced form is much cheaper and isn't metabolically active." (Source: www.woodmed.com)

IT'S NOT THE DOSAGE BUT THE QUALITY THAT COUNTS

When it comes to quality, potency, and safety, studies conclude that reduced glutathione is superior to unreduced glutathione. And even if the dosage of unreduced glutathione is increased to 500mg per capsule, it will not compensate for its inherent weakness, or solve the fact that it doesn't work properly and is not easily metabolized by the body. On the other hand, each capsule of MET TATHIONE is a concentrated, thus, more potent dose containing 250mg of premium-grade reduced glutathione, 25mg of alpha lipoic acid (a natural moisturizer), and 125mg of sodium ascorbate (natural vitamin C). Together, they help cleanse the body, strengthen the immune system, delay ageing, boost sexual potency, prevent skin allergies and stress-related diseases... plus, decrease the production of melanin to whiten skin.

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No more hiding for Hayden

**Can
show-biz
offers be
far
behind
for this
gorgeous
doctor-
model?**

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Sara Black

DR. HAYDEN KHO Jr. is a walking enigma. He can be carefree one moment, preening for the cameras in his latest Hugo Boss and Moschino outfits, and serious the next, discussing his concept of an unseen God and His infinite universe.

He's also an avid reader who never lets go of self-help and philosophical books without going through them "from cover to cover." No matter how busy his schedule is, says Kho, he makes it a point to read for at least half an hour every night before going to bed.

In spite of his numerous activities, which include singing his heart out on GMA 7's "Celebrity Duets" every Saturday evening, he still manages to find time to read three books a month.

"When I read a book, even fiction, it's important for me to learn something from it and teach it to somebody else," says Kho, during a lull in his crazy schedule—now including weekly voice lessons with Abeg and Ding Pionso. "Otherwise, I can't fully claim that I've read the book."

He's currently savoring a copy of "The Power of Kabbalah" by Yehuda Berg and has recently reread "Mere Christianity" by CS Lewis as a foil to Richard Dawkins' atheist arguments in "The God Delusion."

"After reading Dawkins, it's easy to fall into the belief that there's no God," says Kho. "To balance everything, I went back to 'Mere Christianity.' I then came up with my own conclusions after going through both books."

So what did he arrive at? There's definitely a God, but the 6'3" looker says he has a "different" idea of the Supreme Being and the role ordinary mortals like him play in the grand scheme of things.

Driven, serious

Indeed, beneath this model's façade (he joined "Bodyshots" in 2000 and dabbled in ramp modeling while taking up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas) is a serious and driven man who claims to know what he wants.

"I love kids, but I hate pediatrics," he says, before breaking into a boyish grin. "I want to specialize in anti-aging medicine because I find it interesting. Of course, that's also



ICEBERG floral short-sleeve polo, Sergio Tacchini stripe knit top

where the money is."

Don't get him wrong, though, as Kho is the first to point out that his career choice is based on "love." He wants to make a pile as soon as possible in order to give something back to his parents.

Kho, who took after his father's long and lean physique, credits his dad, also a doctor, for influencing him to pursue medicine. Kho Sr., an ethnic Chinese, practices family and industrial medicine in Manila.

Kho's free spirit of a mother, who's into landscaping, fashion and interior design, on the other hand, is responsible for helping him keep in touch with "my feminine side." The Filipino-Spanish beauty is also to "blame" for her son's striking Eurasian features.

"I want them to enjoy life while they're still strong," says Kho, the fourth of five kids. "I can't imagine myself being supported by my parents all my life. I also want to be independent."

This realization has led him to drop his dream of specializing in plastic surgery. Doing so would mean training for another eight to 10 years. After nearly a decade preparing for a career in medicine, this guy has had enough of "unemployable enlightenment."

"I'm raring to put my education to good use," he declares. "It's time to work."

also fashionable in a daring but classic way. In a world where talk has become cheap, he also cites her for her integrity.

"Her word means a lot," he says. "If she promises you something, she will do it without regrets. Unlike me, she believes in the goodness of people. She believes everybody changes for the good. That's why some people have taken advantage of her."

As Belo's self-appointed "knight in shining armor," Kho often feels frustrated that he can't defend his ladylove from malicious and anonymous attacks 24/7. Thus, as a rule, the couple doesn't let unsolicited comments, whether good or bad, affect them.

And now that Kho has started appearing on TV, initially as a reluctant singer out to serenade the two most important women in his life—his mother and his girlfriend—can a career in show biz be far behind?

"It depends if the offer is attractive," he says with a wink. "But I will never turn my back on medicine."

Kho is all set to fly to Europe sometime next year to embark on a series of training sessions with the best anti-aging specialists in the continent. Instead of eight years, he expects to finish the program in two.



DIESEL denim jeans, **Gucci** white belt

Photography by Sara Black
Styling by Milica Arzaga
Makeup by Claire Gosselin / Solano
Hair by Shi Uemura
Hair Styling by Ricky Diokno/
Kohl's Stylist Series

Old soul

Not only is he practical, he also seems wise beyond his years when it comes to matters of the heart. Not a few people raised their eyebrows in disbelief when Kho and Dr. Vicki Belo decided to go public with their relationship.

The two have, in fact, been dating for two years now, soon after Kho joined the Belo Medical Group at the Medical Plaza in Makati as one of its residents.

"I've always felt that I'm an old soul," he explains. "Even when I was much younger, I've always been drawn to older women. Even my friends in school were a bit older than me. I find older people more interesting."

Surprisingly, in their May-December relationship, it's Belo who's often the subject of nasty talk.

"I have no problems dealing with all the criticisms," he says. "They can call me a user for all they want, but please spare her. It's so unfair because Vicks is such a good person."

In Kho's eyes, Belo is also one of the sexiest and most beautiful women he has ever dated. She's



SHIRT, jeans and scarf all from Hugo Boss

JACKET, knit top
and scarf from
Hugo Boss; Antik
Denim jeans; Yohji
Yamamoto
sneakers

Avant-garde timepieces

AZIMUTH IS A MATHEMATICAL TERM that refers to the arc of a horizon from a specific reference point. It is used by astrologers, navigators and military men to survey their bearings.

Azimuth is also the brand name of a line of premium avant-garde watches founded in 2003 by veterans in the watch industry. The watches are individually modified and assembled in Switzerland.

Azimuth is available in four main lines: Mecha-1 BMF, Militare-1, Round-1 and SP-1 Mechanique. These collections include a range of features such as chronographs, retrograde counters, calendar functions, power reserve, mystery complications, etc.

Mecha-1 BMF represents Azimuth's

SP-1 Mechanique

REGULATEUR Retrograde Minutes, Round-1 collection

signature collection. It exudes industrial machismo with its race-car allusions and cutting-edge aesthetics. Militare-1 gets its inspiration from pilots' watches during World War II, commonly known as the B-Uhr. Another nostalgic piece from Azimuth is the Round-1 collection, with classic round-shaped cases inspired by 1940s timepieces. Nicknamed "spaceship watch," the SP-1 Mechanique line, meanwhile, features a forward-looking timepiece that gives one a feel of gazing at the universe from inside a space shuttle when telling time.

Azimuth timepieces are available at Rafael Jewellery, 2/L Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 6363399).

JAGDBOMBER, Militare-1 collection

Second time around

ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS watchmakers in the world, Omega, has opened its second free-standing boutique in the Philippines.

The new boutique is located at 2/L TriNoma in Quezon City. It carries the complete range of the brand's timeless collections, including Constellation, Seamaster, Speedmaster, De Ville, and Specialties lines, as well as elegant designs from the Omega fine jewelry collection.

As with the first Omega Boutique in Glorietta and every Omega outlet worldwide, these fine timepieces and jewelry are complemented by superior customer service that reflects Omega's tradition of excellence since 1848. Stationed at the boutique is a qualified watchmaker who provides technical advice and the most professional and efficient customer service.

The new boutique boasts of furniture and display systems that are specially designed and made in the Omega headquarters in Switzerland.

Renowned for its precision, Omega has been official timekeeper of the Olympic Games for more than three-quarters of a century now. The legendary Swiss brand has also been the watch chosen by NASA and its astronauts in the conquest of space since the 1960s. Omega's reputation for exquisite design, craftsmanship, and style sees it as the choice of many of the most fashionable and glamorous men and women around the world.

Omega watches are also available at the Omega boutique in Glorietta and retail watch shops like Lucerne, Chronos, and Prestige.



OMEGA'S second boutique in the Philippines is in TriNoma.



FX DATE by Buffalo. An analogue watch with date feature and brown leather strap

Watches from A to Z



IN A FLOURISHING market of watches offering various shapes, designs, and prizes, Watch Republic offers everyone the newest brands and styles of watches.

Watch Republic carries brands such as Adidas, Police, Buffalo, Timberland, and Michael Kors for both men and women.

Watch Republic has branches at Power Plant Mall Rockwell, TriNoma, Robinsons Place Ermita, The Block SM North Edsa, Mall of Asia, Market Market, SM Fairview, SM Lipa, SM Pampanga, SM Cebu, SM Bacolod and Limketkai CDO.

FLORENCE by Police. Get funky with this black ion-plated case with stones and black leather strap.

Photography Charles Lu
Watches from Watch Republic

Shot on location in Singapore aboard Star Cruise Superstar Virgo
Model Melissa Frye

BDO

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*Rebate also applies to 0% at 3-month installment purchase worth P5,000. Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4330 Series of 2007.

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Rediscover the pleasures of SM shopping and eating out! Go value-hunting on the weekend of September 28, 29 and 30 at SM City Manila and SM City Bicutan. For the convenience of shoppers, mall hours at SM City Bicutan have been extended from 10am to 11pm on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29.



More prizes for more winners!

A P500 single-receipt purchase from any participating store (food or non-food) qualifies shoppers to join the raffle draw on Sept. 30, 2007. At stake in the 3-DAY SALE raffle event: a total of 10 Next Base portable DVD players with 7-inch color monitor. (5 units* for 5 winners per mall.)



3 DAY SALE

SEPT 28 • 29 • 30

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MALLWIDE

Mall hours: **10am - 10pm**



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4220, Series of 2007

Come for the great buys!

Cap the month of September with take-home buys on a wide assortment of merchandise tagged at up to 50% off. Participating establishments - including beauty and fitness boutiques, specialty shops, appliance and computer stores, home stores, fashion boutiques, and many more - are offering fantastic deals in addition to the price breaks.



Avail of all these at SM City Bicutan, your one-stop mall venue in Southern Metro Manila.

Catch the savings!

Bag the many attractive deals and offers during the 3-DAY SALE event at SM City Manila. And, for your Christmas shopping, you'd be pleasantly surprised to find an amazing array of gift items for your wish list!

Boost your chances to WIN!

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Meet to eat at SM FOODCOURT. Take your pick from a wide selection of menus, served hot and tasty for you, your family and friends at really cool prices.



Every P150 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to one raffle coupon.

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Relax, watch a movie. See your favorite stars in their latest flicks at SM CINEMA.

Every single purchase of four cinema tickets qualifies you to join the Next Base DVD player raffle promo.



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SDV97-B

See mechanics poster for details

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION

Retro

hits

AFTER A season of futurism, fashion houses around the globe are digging deep into historical archives and taking inspiration from eras past to create new collections meant for the modern woman.

For Fall/Winter 2007, for instance, Louis Vuitton designer Marc Jacobs chose 17th-century Dutch paintings as a springboard for his polished, grown-up yet still very hip collection. Muccia Prada presented coats with an interesting 1920s slouch while Alber Elbaz of Lanvin drew inspiration from Jeanne Lanvin's illustrations of wide-shouldered 1930s gowns.

International brands Episode and Jessica, on the other hand, are channeling the 1960s by paying homage to two icons of that era: Jackie O., whose style countless women have tried to imitate since her days as JFK's first lady, and the mod squad. As such, A-line, baby-doll and swing tops, dresses and jackets with large rounded collars comprise both labels' current collections.

Neutral colors like black and cream are predominant in Episode Studio's current collection. Meanwhile, tonal hues in powder blue, steel and rosebud anchored to black define Jessica's fall offerings.

Fabrication for Episode Studio's line consists of Rayon and stretch jersey for ease and comfort, cashmere for a touch of luxe, and basket weave for novelty. Jessica's fabrication range focuses on day-to-evening combinations that include reflective fabrics like metallic devore, metallic jacquard and Lurex canvas weave.

The former's general feel leans towards timeless elegance and a traditional professional look characterized by jackets with trademark Jackie O. shawl collars and French cuffs, while Jessica's look harks back to swinging London, when flared cuffs and ruffles were aplenty.

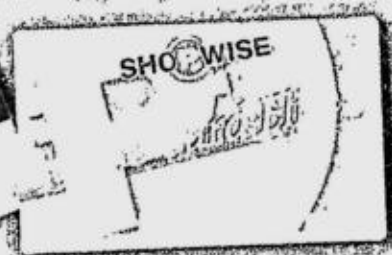
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4364, Series of 2007

Retro hits

Remember that retro references in fashion will work only when they're not taken literally

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

From page D1

Of course, it's best to remember that retro references in fashion will work only when they're not taken literally. A good mix of retro and modern pieces (say, a swing jacket a la Jackie O. paired with edgy skinny jeans) will always lend a more inter-

esting, fashion-forward appeal.

So, while looking to the past for inspiration, inject a little of the here and now (and of the future even!) for a look that's style-savvy, up-to-the-minute and still fashionably fun!

Episode (Shangri-La Plaza

Mall) and Jessica (Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Podium, Rustan's Makati) are exclusively distributed by Store Specialists Inc.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
Styling Charmaine Palermo
Makeup and hair Robbie Pinera for
Lancome and Raymond Santiago
for L'Oreal Professionnel



JESSICA button-down cream coat with metallic gold detail



JESSICA black knitted pullover, blue green knitted long-sleeved turtleneck; (right) navy knitted dress with cardigan, pearl with semiprecious stones ribbon necklace



EPISODE cream knee-length lace dress



JESSICA gray A-line mini dress, gray patent ankle boots, plastic acrylic chain necklace; (right) taupe dress with embellished neckline, woven gold metal coat, patent camel mary-janes

Benefit bazaar Oct. 19-20

TICKLED PINK, THE BENEFIT BAZAAR, will be held Oct. 19-20, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent, Makati. The look is New Age Zen in black and pink, the global breast cancer color, styled by Joseph Claravall. The bazaar will showcase rare items, mostly products for export ranging from women's wear and accessories, menswear, children's clothing and toys, home accessories, gifts, and a wide array of food. Specially designed items from ICanServe foundation are also available. Bianca Araneta, a supporter of the advocacy, is the event's signature model (6873942, e-mail icanserve@yahoo.com or visit www.icanserve.net).

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BEFORE



AFTER

Pat Doza
TV Host /
Media Executive

"Xando fits my needs and my lifestyle."

My typical day includes going to the gym, dining and having coffee with friends, and tasting all the ice cream flavors and mix-ins in my shop. Thanks to Xando, I'm able to maintain my ideal weight and keep up with my busy lifestyle.



BEFORE

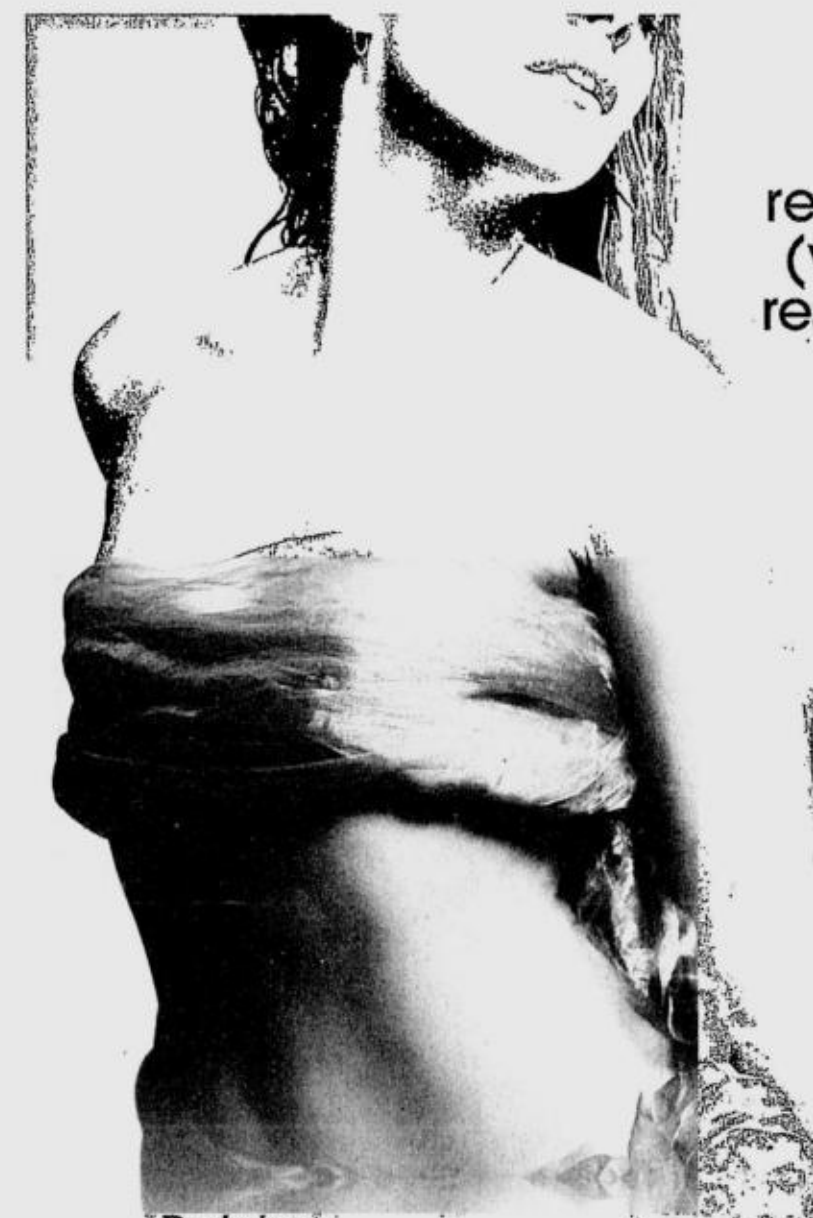


AFTER

Joubert Yao
Operations Executive



Serpent bangle



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— Authentic customer statement, 22 March 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

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Gen. Trias, Cavite

September 16

Ana Belen M. Manansala

Sta. Ana, Manila

September 17

Aileen Omac

Cagayan De Oro

September 18

Dolores de Honor

Balintawak, Quezon City

September 19

Leslie G. Ocampo

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Kyla Adielle G. Ortigas

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September 21

Rachelle Colina

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Daily winners from September 26 to 30 will be notified and announced on Eat Bulaga from Monday to Saturday and SOP on Sunday.

You too can win P30,000 in our daily draws this September! See posters and flyers for more details.

September mall tour schedule:

September 29-30 SM Dasmariñas & Trinoma



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NOVEMBER

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Baby, I love your shades

Ray-Ban introduces the latest reincarnation of the classic Wayfarers, and Hollywood is snatching them up again

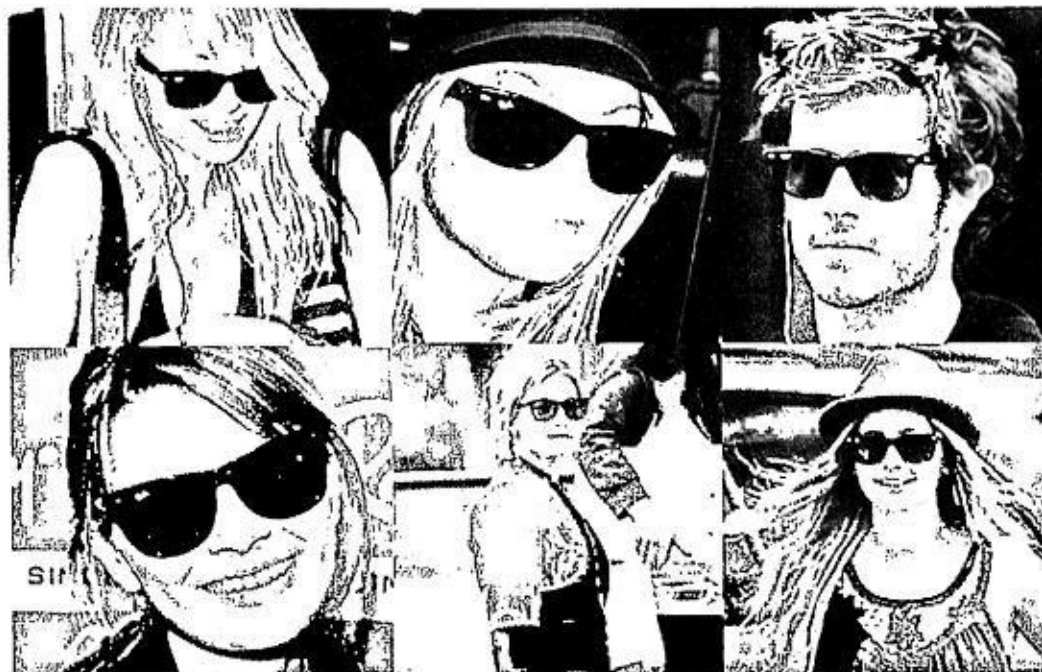
WHO CAN EVER FORGET TOM CRUISE'S defining scene in "Risky Business" where he danced around in nothing but a polo shirt, tighty whities and tube socks?

Mabuhay!



Jenni Epperson

That Hollywood moment put "Risky Business" on the pop-culture map. It also turbo-launched the popularity of an iconic fashion item—no, not the briefs and tube socks combo, but Ray-Ban Wayfarer shades. It's hard to think of Tom Cruise in that



movie without them.

That 1983 movie became pivotal in cementing Tom Cruise's career, and likewise re-launched Ray-Ban Wayfarers as an inimitable Hollywood accessory. Some 360,000 pairs were sold each year since

Black-eyed piece

From top left: Nicole Ritchie, Fergie, Adam Brody, Mischa Barton, Sienna Miller and Ashley Simpson

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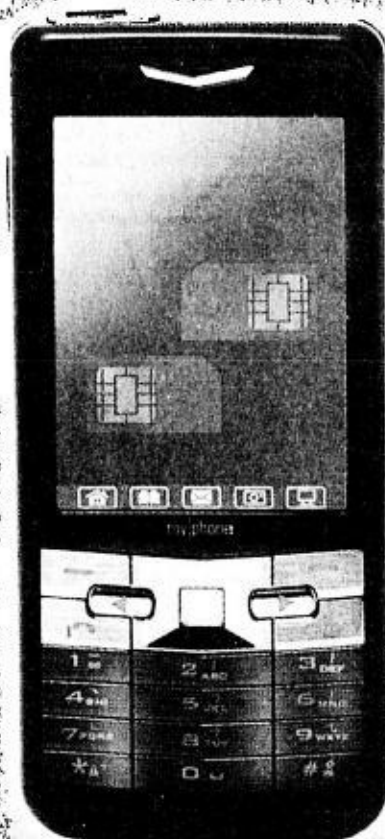
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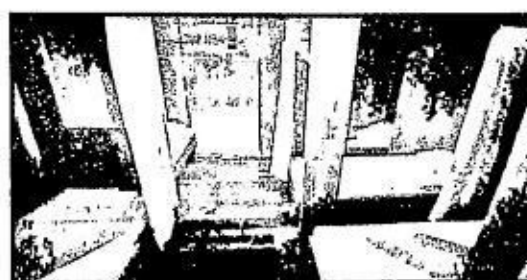
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Red see. Sienna Miller, Rachel Bilson and Ashley Olsen

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Baby, I love your shades

From page E1

they appeared in that movie, and when they also graced "Miami Vice" and "Moonlighting," sales skyrocketed to 1.5 million. The shades became the decade's defining accessory.

Hollywood celebrities of an earlier era, Marilyn Monroe and James Dean among them, also helped popularize Ray-Ban Wayfarers. But it was Audrey Hepburn who first elevated Wayfarers to legendary status when she wore a tortoiseshell pair in the classic film "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

They seemed to be the perfect, versatile choice for Hollywood stars, their versatility showcased by the spectrum of celebrities across generations who had anointed Wayfarers as their preferred eyewear—John F. Kennedy, Bob Dylan, Andy Warhol, Kim Novak, even Anna Wintour.

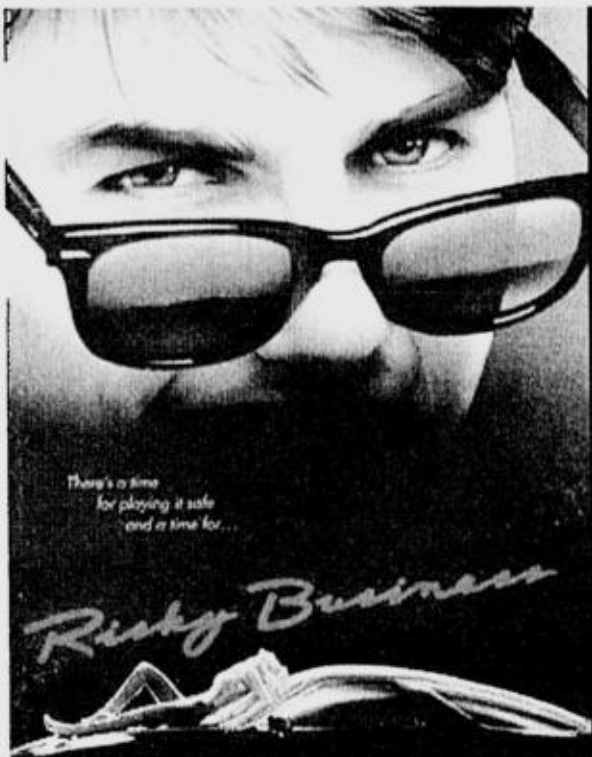
Ray-Ban Wayfarers, hailed as the "connoisseur's choice," were first created in 1952 and have since become the best-selling shades in history. This season, Ray-Ban reintroduces the classic sunglasses with modern versions reflective of the times. The newer versions come in smaller sizes and in several colors such as transparent blue, honey and pearl gray—perfect for Asians and for those with small faces.

The special-edition 2140 Wayfarers are handmade from the same materials and specifications as the original design, from the hinge detail to the angled face.

And look who's sporting them this time around? Mischa Barton, Drew Barrymore, Kirsten Dunst, Kate Moss and Sienna Miller!

It's time to part with your plati-sized sunnies and say hello to the classic Wayfarers.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



Silver screen shades. Tom Cruise in "Risky Business" and Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"



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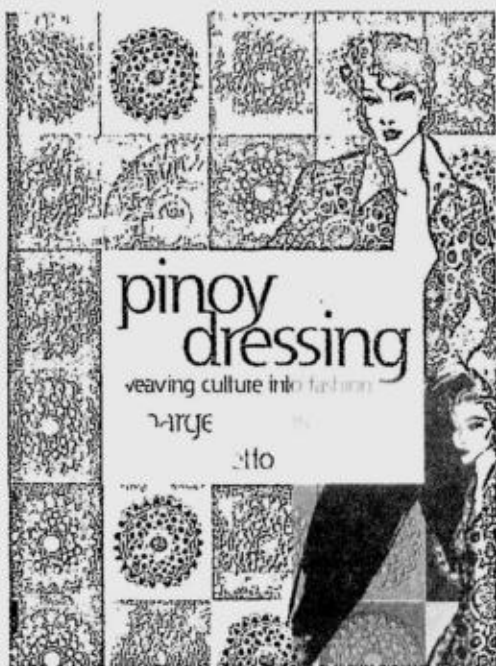
White nights. Drew Barrymore

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Kirsten Dunst
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FASHION BOOKS FASHION BOOKS FASHION BOOKS

Reading is always in fashion. Here are INQUIRER Fashion's top picks for this month



'Pinoy Dressing: Weaving Culture into Fashion,' by Barge Ramos

Anvil Publishing

"Pinoy Dressing" first graced the pages of *Malaya Living* in the summer of 1990 as an attempt to continue and integrate indigenous culture into modern design and enrich it with new ideas for contemporary applications. Whether these ideas pertained to fashion in particular or to society in general, the vision is the same—to celebrate the tapestry of our lives as Filipinos through the evolution of fashion.



'The Big Book of Fashion Illustration,' by Martin Dawber

Page One Publishing

Contains almost a thousand new and innovative fashion illustrations from over 250 artists from every part of the world. The illustrations are inspirational examples employing every media and technique, including traditional watercolors, acrylics, pencil drawings, as well as digital photography and collage.



'The Bags'

Page One Publishing

With a contemporary look and compact size, "The Bags" shows full-color images and new trends from over 100 bag designers from five continents. This book brims with creative ideas for all sorts of bags, from dressy totes to shopping bags.

All books available at Fully Booked Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; and Bonifacio High Street, Global City

Gustave Flaubert
Madame Bovary

WIN!

Get a chance to win this Penguin Red Classic edition of Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" with a specially designed cover by none other than Manolo Blahnik, courtesy of Fully Booked. Just e-mail us at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph what your favorite fashion book is and why it rocks!

The boons and benefits of modern 21st Century society - personal computing, email, transcontinental air travel - do come at a price. We live in a multi-tasking world, where, instead of finding more time for personal pursuits, we find ourselves juggling more things to do. What that bodes for us is stress, the one true evil of modern life. Stress causes everything from migraines, ulcers, malaise, even chronic ailments. "When stress threatens to drown out that which makes us happy, tranquil and content, it becomes all the more imperative to slow down, take an introspective look at one's self, and actively pursue one's own well being," says Pam

Enter TREi

TREI stands for Total Recreational Experience, Inc., a pioneering concept in experiential lifestyle living that gives its members unprecedented access to a multitude of prestigious lifestyle products and unique personalized services. Through its innovative delivery platform, the TREI Lifestyle Counselor, a 24/7 personal concierge service that arranges all your needs and makes things happen, TREI delivers unparalleled convenience, time savings and excellent value for money. Whether it's for work or play or even personal well being, TREI provides a direct hotline to your peace of mind.

Pamper Yourself

Nothing defeats stress like a day at the spa, where you can relax your body while soothing the mind and releasing

pent-up inner tension. With TREI, privileged pampering is within easy reach. Working with several prestigious wellness partners, TREI lets you find personal balance away from the din of the outside world with added perks. Book a treatment, say a Japanese Volcanic Stone Massage, at the Neo Day Spa through the TREI TLC and you'll receive a premium voucher that gives you an extra treatment to add to your relaxation and personal pampering. At Belo Medical, you'll get preferential arrangements on spa treatments and cosmetic packages as well. TREI's own Spa Destination Facility at the TREI PonteFino in Batangas City will open its newly renovated floors to members in 2008 who want a quick getaway outside Metro Manila, offering exclusive facilities and exotic massage treatments from around the world.

A Better, Stronger, Faster You

Personal fitness has come of age.



Once the exclusive domain of body builders and professional athletes, fitness centers are full of people determined to take care of their bodies. "Whether for weight reduction, strength training or a pick-me-up before going to work, the gym is a part of modern day life and TREI is aware of that," explains Daniel Feliciano, TREI Marketing Officer. In close partnership with Gold's Gym, TREI has your personal fitness in mind. With each payment of monthly

dues, a TREI member may avail of access to Gold's Gym facilities 3 times a week. "Gold's Gym will also soon be managing the Fitness Center at Hotel PonteFino, currently undergoing expansion to include state of the art equipment and facilities," adds Feliciano.

The Siren Call of Water

Perhaps it's the fact that our bodies are composed mostly of water that draws us to oceans and lakes, to swim, frolic, relax and enjoy the waves and sand, sun and sea. If it's aqua sports you're looking for, TREI's adventure sports partners should keep you well satisfied. TREI gets you free wakeboarding lessons and preferred accommodation rates at the Camarines Sur Wakeboarding Complex (CWC) in Camarines Sur, free introductory dive and preferred rates at Eagle Point Resort in Batangas, and preferred rates on surfing packages at Stonemoney Surf in Zambales. TREI also gives sun-loving TREI members access to resorts such as El Nido in Palawan, Sumilon Bluewater Island Resort and Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort in Cebu, and The Tides in Boracay.

Thinking Green

For some people, a relaxing day means a pleasant time at the links playing a full round of golf with their buddies. If you're tired of swinging your clubs at your usual haunt, TREI unlocks the gates to numerous golf courses around the country for its members, including Eagle Ridge Golf and Residential Estates, Caliraya Spring Golf Marina, Summit Point Golf and Residential Estates, Lakewood City, Palos Verdes, the Camp John Hay Golf Club and Mimosa Golf and Country Club. Simply book your round with the TREI TLC and gain instant entry to these exclusive courses.

Caring for your Health

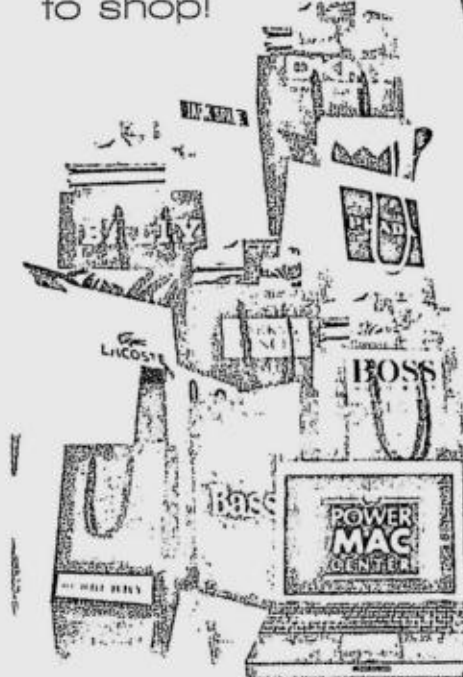
Infirmity and illness strike when least expected. To provide you with support and assistance in times of medical need, TREI has partnered with the New Medical City Hospital, the Philippines' biggest, most advanced hospital to date. Booking a room at Medical City through the TREI TLC provides immediate convenience and benefit, such as express admission, an immediate room upgrade, and even a 15 percent discount across all hospital charges, including professional fees. By no means limited to emergency cases, this also includes elective procedures and treatments.

Living the TREi Life

As a lifestyle enabler, TREI is committed to providing its members with whatever they need, be it making travel arrangements, organizing a dinner party or press con, providing access to exclusive events or booking an appointment at the vet," Pascual emphasizes. "Our holistic approach to lifestyle likewise includes the health, fitness, sports and wellness aspects of our members' lives. We're there to anticipate those needs and provide for them when the member wants it, continually benefiting their lives through convenience, time and value."

"You want it?" asks Pascual? "TREi can make it happen. And that's a promise."

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FASHION

LIFESTYLE

Men's fashion looks East

AS RISING PROSPERITY transforms the Asia-Pacific region, Hugo Boss looks eastward for inspiration for its Fall/Winter 2007/2008 collection.

But the influence is always with a light touch: It's understated and sophisticated, reflected in a balanced and restrained color palette, in design details and in delicate graphic touches.

Tailoring for the city is clean, sharp and elegant, freshened by an emerging sportswear aesthetic.

The two-button single-breasted slim-line suit is the dominant shape, although three-button suits and three-piece looks are also in the mix.

For the winter wrap-up, new technical nylon coats and high-shine leather make a strong impact. Shirts range from slim and fitted through to textured solids and a "softline" washed range, complemented by ties.

For urban menswear, colors are dark, with black and gray to the fore. The look is sharp, precise and focused for Fall. The theme's influences range from modern Asia to cool Mod style of the 1960s and today's cutting-edge music scene. The perfect suits are close-fitting two-button or three-button single-breasted with notably shorter jacket lengths.

Fabrics with structure are back. Luxury mixes include cashmere, silk, angora and mohair. Tonal stripes dominate suitings, although a slight hint of color adds more character to the season's most directional cloths.

A more relaxed and casual-focused theme, although even for the weekend, the look is still sharp and refined. The new two-button casual sports jackets are fitted and short, with velvet or leather under collars and new piping details.

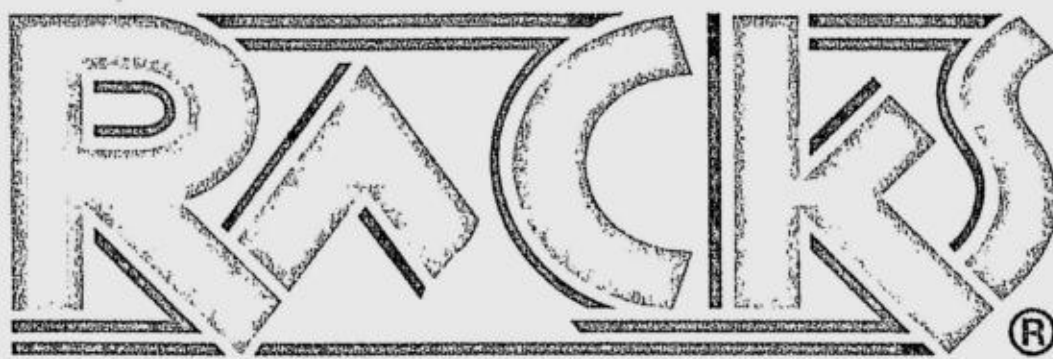
Structured wool jackets and coats are also fitted and short, perfect to wear with knitwear, a strong feature of the season.

Take your pick from cashmeres, cash wools and other luxury mixes in a variety of innovative new styles, including seamless roll neck cashmere sweaters and printed herringbone merino wool cardigans.

Chunkier styles create volume but the yarns are super-soft and lightweight, a pleasure to wear.

The colors are warm and natural, including brown, beige, camel, mustard and olive. Soft checks, herringbones, tweeds, flannels and velvets provide plenty of tactile fabric options, often in wool or luxury natural mixes.

Hugo Boss is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. The boutiques are located at Greenbelt 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



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Showroom hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 1pm - 6pm
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BLACK poly puffer down jacket, black allover sparkle tulip skirt, black virgin wool racerback tank, black knitted fingerless long glove, black metallic suede zip-up ankle high heel boot, black opaque



Clean cut

INNOVATIVE URBAN ELEGANCE defines ck Calvin Klein for women for Fall 2007.

Clean, modern shapes draw inspiration from architecture and sculptures. New pared-down silhouettes with volume and drape replace embellishment and adornment. Fabrics are technical, sculptural, bonded and compact in cashmere, scuba stretch, wool and poly crepe, lacquered leather, silk organza, nylon, parachute weight cottons, and athletic mesh.

The high-performance technological material meets an updated, modern American style. Oversized volumes balance skinnier silhouette, with luxe womenswear in felted cashmere and wool gabardine woven with lurex for luster and shine.

Silhouettes are cut with precision. Funnel necks and sculptural hoods on outerwear give a modern edge. Lacquered chiffon, metallicized velvets and liquid jerseys are used for asymmetric cut tops and dresses for day

and evening.

There are subtle utilitarian details throughout. The color palette is restrained and somber, with rich shades of midnight, navy, and indigo mixed with essential black and tones of grays with lustrous metallic touches. Pants are skinny or voluminous with pleats, but always masculine. The classic pencil skirt is rendered modern in sophisticated fine lurex wool paired with an oversized hooded lacquered nylon bomber.

Sculptural dresses and high-waisted skirts worn with asymmetrical tops make for evening wear. Bags are oversized, or mini, graphic and compact in metallics. Black nappa gloves are long and elegant, or short and suede gloves. The metallic suede pump or ankle boot with a glossy heel paired with dark hose allows for total coverage during the fall season.

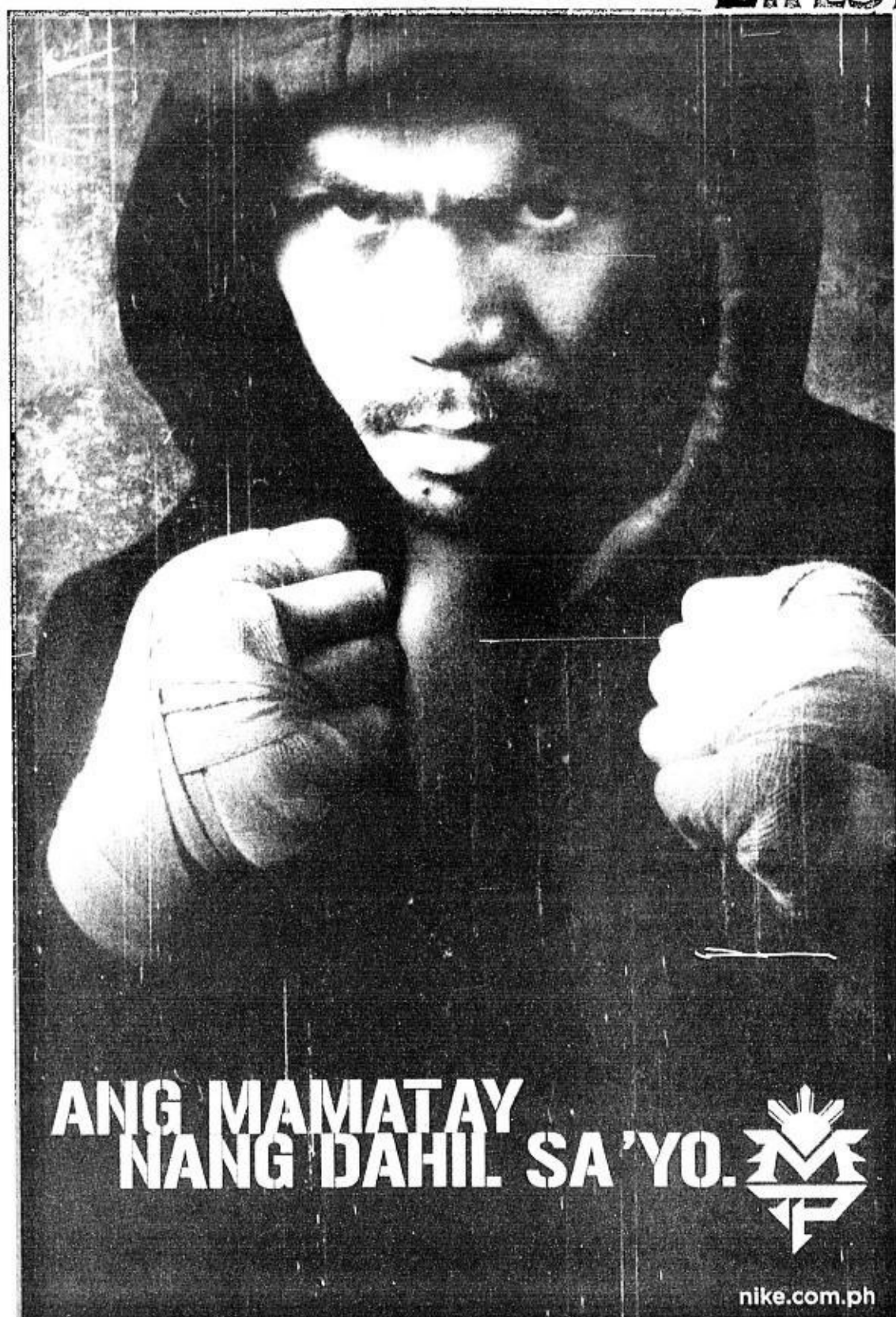
ck Calvin Klein is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and is located at Power Plant Mall and Rustan's Makati.

BLACK metallic viscose scoop neck kimono sleeve top, black scuba stretch jopper pant, black metallic leather wide belt with big metal buckle, black knitted fingerless long glove, black merino wool knitted snood, black metallic leather clutch, black metallic leather ankle strap high heel shoe, black opaque tights




BLACK virgin wool engineered rib exaggerated sleeve sweater, black & white tweed high waist skirt, black metallic suede zip-up ankle high heel boot, Black opaque, and necklace





**ANG MAMATAY
NANG DAHIL SA 'YO.**



nike.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM EPPERSON

Iconic shirt for boxing icon

IN HONOR OF BOXER Manny Pacquiao, Nike Philippines has unveiled the Pacquiao identity mark and crest.

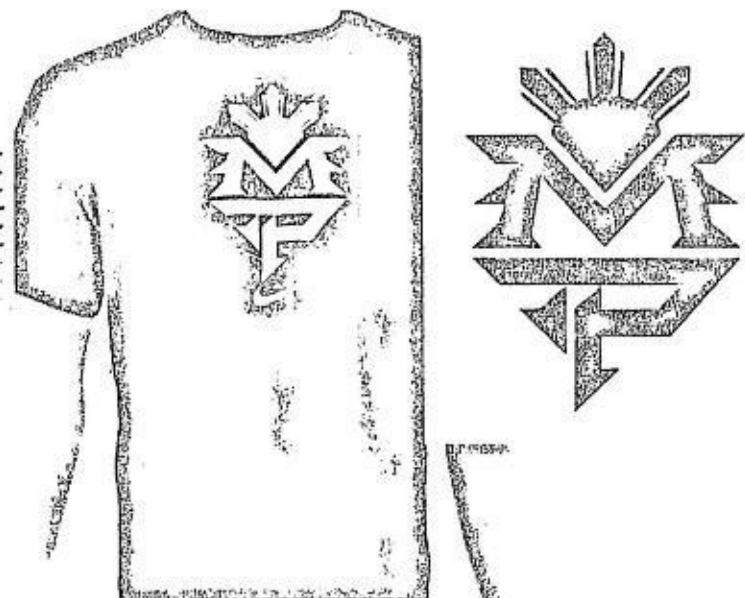
Inspired by the life of the world's best pound-for-pound boxer today, the crest recognizes Pacquiao's status as a national athlete, evoking the Filipino coat of arms while the identity mark bears the boxer's initials designed with the rising sun inspired by the national flag.

"Manny Pacquiao is the first Filipino athlete to ever have an official Nike identity mark and crest devel-

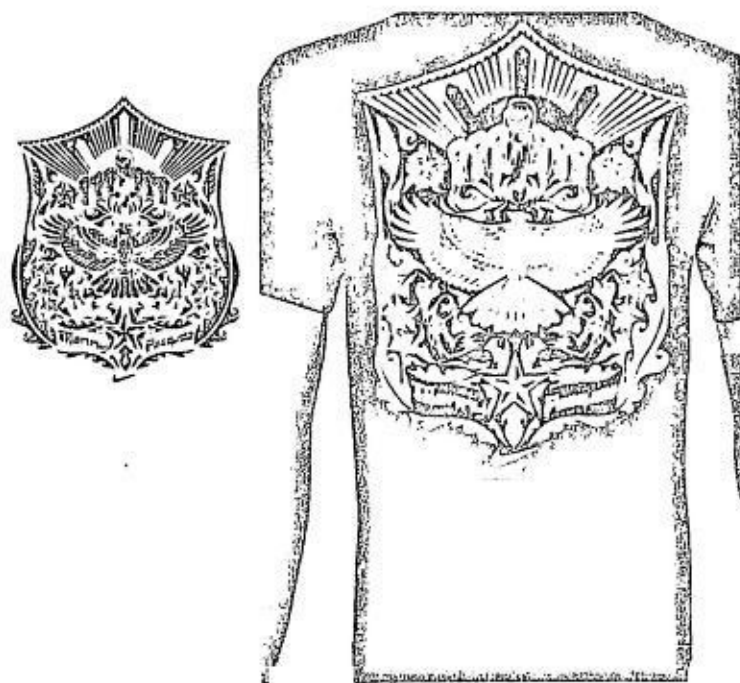
**FASHION
BUZZ**
Hot, haute, hot news!

oped after his iconic stature," said Nike Philippines country marketing manager Melissa Crucillo.

Rally for "Pacman" this Oct. 6 when he faces Marco Barrera by wearing these designs available to the public through a limited-edition Nike FIT Dri T-shirt, available at Nike stores nationwide at P895.



MANNY Pacquiao T-shirt with Pacquiao mark



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look good...

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goodsphere™

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Essences
this season

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Beware of
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Angelique Villaraza

Favorite Shoe: Pink bejeweled Guiseppe Zanotti satin heels. They instantly dress up any outfit and are very comfortable.

What do you look for in a shoe? Must have character, an unusual detail.

Favorite brand: I have a collection of Guiseppe Zanotti bejeweled heels. They are well-made, of very high quality, and the embellishments are tastefully done.

Shoe-buying style: The shoe must speak to me loud and clear from its show window or from its perch on the display box. It must have a detail that no other shoe has... which means I don't like basic black or brown leather numbers.



Ruby Gan

Favorite Pair: Orange Dolce & Gabbana sandals. I love colors and orange is such a happy color! I like that they look timeless and can actually be worn with anything, day or night.

What do you look for in a shoe? I usually look for a unique style. Is it high enough? Does the pair make a statement? I don't like ho-hum shoes, and I love shoes that give the impression of loooooong legs!

Favorite brand: I have a lot of favorites! I love Louboutin because he can be serious then playful next. Definitely, I like the slope of his heels—they're sexy. I also like the no-nonsense style of Prada and YSL—they're truly fashion-forward!

Shoe-buying style: Definitely, sexy and standout! Shoes for me complete the whole look!

Step sisters

Most women do enjoy a curious love affair with shoes. We seem to be gifted with the talent to zero in on that perfect pair whether they are on the shelves or on people's feet

By Malu A. Gamboa
Contributor

"SHOES ARE MY VERSION OF Prozac. When I have new shoes, I do truly feel as if I'm walking on air. I have a silly grin on my face the whole day and I have a good mood for the longest time. At night, I either put the shoes by the bed, or wear them to sleep with my feet dangling at the edge of the bed. I know, I need help."

True confessions of Leah Puyat, who keeps a Shoe Journal. Her current favorite is "a peep-toe slingback with a low platform in sage green that has a satin vamp and heel, with a leather accent on the vamp. For now I love it because: A) it's an odd color that I can treat as a neutral because of its tonality; B) the mix of leather and satin means I can take it from day to night, which is always a plus; C) the way it cradles and supports my foot and yet reveals my ankles and toes is a winner combination in a shoe."

Leah used 59 words to describe her favorite pair from Janilyn. This admitted shoe-holic who has found her happy pill in shoes is not alone.

Most women do enjoy a curi-

ous love affair with shoes. We seem to be gifted with the talent to zero in on that perfect pair whether they are on the shelves or on people's feet. For Ruby Gan, shoes "complete the sentence. Is it an exclamation point to show surprise? Awe? Is it a question mark? Or an ellipsis that leaves the onlookers wondering what you're wearing next?"

Ruby's love for the high heel has inspired her to launch the successful chain of Schu stores.

The right shoe can spell the difference to how you feel throughout the day. The idea of wearing uncomfortable shoes is over. When Oprah came out with a feature on comfortable high heels made by a former Nike shoe scientist, everyone was prepared to give Cole Haan a second look.

For Angelique Villaraza, "the fit must be perfect because I do a lot of walking. A bad fit will always hurt your feet, and although I love shoes... I love my feet even more."

Crickette Tantoco goes to Cesar Gaupo, Manila's answer to Manolo Blahnik, for bespoke standouts because they are "exquisitely designed, skillfully handcrafted and custom-made just for me."



Crickette Tantoco

What do you look for in a shoe? Comfort, quality and panache.

Favorite brand: Stuart Weitzman because of the variety of styles they offer to match my every whim and mood.

Shoe-buying style: Style then comfort.

Shoes for me... determine what makes or breaks an outfit.



Leah B. Puyat

What do you look for in a shoe? I look for the same thing I do in a man—an instant, irresistible gravitational pull that can be caused by any number of factors. An odd color is a plus. For the longest time, I didn't own basic black day shoes. Maybe because I grew up in a Catholic girls' school and had to wear basic black shoes for 12 years every day! Next, unique texture or mix of textures. An unexpected pleasure is also a treat. I have a shoe that has tiger-print insoles that can barely be seen. Overall, it just has to be love at first sight.

Favorite brand: Prada, because Miuccia Prada is a genius. She can make shoes that are sensible, sensuous, seductive, and yet not in an overt way. The minute I put on a pair of Prada shoes, it's like the pair was measured on my foot.

Shoe-buying style: The higher the better.

Cecile Zamora, an acknowledged "bag lady" (you'll see why in her Chuvaness blog), just goes straight for Louis Vuitton trainers.

"I'm not a sexy kind of shoe girl. I don't like tiny or pointed



Andy Cruz

What do you look for in a shoe? Style and function.

Favorite brand: I have no favorite brand. If I see a pair I like, I get them.

Shoes for me are... a girl's best friend!



Cecile Zamora

Favorite pair: I love my Vuitton trainers. I can wear them with pants or a skirt and the color goes well with a lot of my clothes. I move a lot easier on trainers.

What do you look for in a shoe? Color, style, what compliments my wardrobe.

Favorite brand: Vuitton makes the best trainers. I love Chloe and Marc Jacobs shoes which make me taller.

Shoes for me are... not a priority. I'd rather spend on a bag.

shoes. I can't wear open-toe shoes because my toes have no "K."

INQUIRER Fashion polled some of Manila's fashionable ladies on their love affair with shoes. Find out about their favorite cobbler and shoe-buying preferences.

Moving to the rhythm of life

It is in the music scene where changes are instantly felt and celebrated. Here, revolutions start at the riff of the guitar, the crash of a cymbal or the pounding of the bass.

With the emergence of music trends such as MTV, music has evolved to become more of a lifestyle. It became a much bigger part of daily life and a more

powerful driving force in our society.

And for generations of music lovers a n d

enthusiasts, something as creatively complex and mysteriously moving as music is still best experienced firsthand.



On choosing to make a career in music, he says, "I didn't want to become a musician until I heard Ritchie Blackmore mangle his guitar on 'Speed King' when I was fourteen," he says. "If you're really into music, it doesn't matter if you get paid or not. Playing a good note becomes a quest, holding an instrument becomes a compulsion."

"Music that affects you, I think, is a gift," he says.

This is where the Nokia Nseries music range multimedia devices come in. The technology of the Nokia Nseries music range multimedia devices is in tune with the needs and wants of the mobile generation—dynamic and creative individuals who move to the rhythm and beat of life, just like our featured music mavericks.

Already a veteran in the rock scene with a career spanning over two decades, Francis Reyes knows the power of those sounds very well. As the lead guitarist of The Dawn, he's an elder statesman of Pinoy Rock, having played rock anthems that have defined more than just one generation. Also, as a part of radio station NU 107.5, he has given listeners the chance not just to enjoy rock music, but also to choose from its many different genres out there—both foreign and local.

"I listen to all genres," he says, "each genre is a color, and I can't think of anything more annoying than insisting that one color is more interesting than another."

"I also dabble in photography," says Francis about the all-in-one features of the Nokia Nseries. "The phone's camera offers good resolution. I can usually shoot a scene beforehand, and make framing decisions and such before I bring out my real camera." He says he likes that he can "also do instant research by going online for a bit, or send a quick email wherever I am. There's a radio feature, which means I can listen to NU and find out if the DJs are doing their job well or not!"

"It has made my life easier," says Armi Millare of Up Dharma Down. "Since I'm always on the go, the Nokia Nseries, being compact and portable, helps a lot."

As the front-woman of one of the most acclaimed and popular bands today, Armi is a role model. Because of her distinct vocals and keyboard playing, she is one of the most compelling performers both onstage and on record—and it's her passion for her craft that sets her apart. "Music has been this constant force in my life," she says. "It has pulled me up and down, but I still pursue it because I enjoy it so much."

"I make sure what I get is worth it," says Armi, "What makes the Nokia Nseries

special is that I don't see other things in it that I don't need... I can store music, I can write lyrics and record melodies—that sometimes just come up unexpectedly."

"I listen to music as often as I can," says music promoter/entrepreneur Jay Server. "Part of my job is to constantly update myself with regards to the different genres of music to be able to keep the different nights in Capone's dynamic."

What started as a hobby for Jay has since become a full-time occupation. He never tires of discovering and showcasing new talents, as well as meeting other people in the music scene. Of course, this entails a lot of moving around and waiting.

His Nokia Nseries phone, with its all-in-one feature, is what helps him pass the time when he has to wait. "Especially at airports or attending meetings," he says, "it allows me to bring my favorite music with me or get trippy with the camera when I'm bored."

What makes the Nokia Nseries the

preferred mobile technology of these music personalities?

"The Nokia Nseries, with its all-in-one capabilities, presents the user with an option to be able to simplify everyday life," says Jay.

"I'm a very practical person," says Armi, "and it has got all the essentials."

"In a word, everything," says Francis.

For today's creative individual, whether a musician or a music fan, the Nokia Nseries is the all-in-one multimedia device that features technology that's perfectly in tune to the demanding and dynamic lifestyle of the mobile generation.



Armi Millare of Up Dharma Down



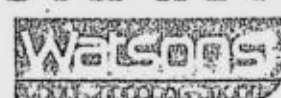
Jay Server owner of Capones and Francis Reyes of The Dawn



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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

SHINY Via Venetto leather platform heels

A NEW PLATFORM COLLECTION made with European leather such as patent, suede and kidskin—in different colors—is now in the shop windows of Via Vianetto.

Aside from showcasing Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship, these pieces are definitely **STEP/G3**

PATENT platforms in gold and silver

Step up the platform

Having it All

Some people look for moments in their lives when they could actually say they have it all. It may be in a perfect date minus all the distractions. It may be while watching a high intensity concert, without getting irritated with loud and rowdy rockers. It may also be the moment you break your record in the treadmill, without pulling a hamstring. Wouldn't life feel a lot better when everything goes your way?



Well, perhaps you can't always get what you want, but you can still Have it All! You can enjoy your scrumptious meal and still drink the great taste of Coke Light without having to worry. And since it has no calories, you can enjoy as much as you want!



If this isn't prize enough, Coke Light goes all out for you to Have it All! Not only do you get great taste and no calories with every purchase of Coke Light, you also get a chance to win fantastic prizes from the Have it All tour!



Interested? Simply visit us on these dates to find out how:

Venue	Date
Fort Strip	September 28-29
ATC Activity Center	October 13-14
SM Mall of Asia and Greenbelt 3	October 5-6

Sheer pleasure,
no guilt.



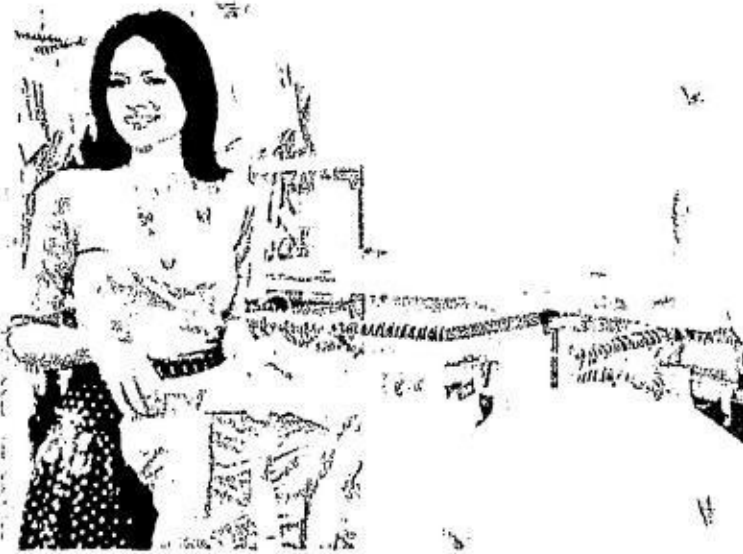
Have it ALL

Coca-Cola
light

great taste. no calories.



BENCH endorser Cruz checks out the Bench flagship store in TriNoma mall.



ALONZO browses through classic tops at the Kashieca store in TriNoma.



ALONZO signs Kashieca posters for her fans.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Starry, starry launch

RAIN COULD NOT STOP fans from trooping to the TriNoma Activity Center for the launching of movie stars Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz as endorsers for fashion brands Kashieca and Bench, respectively.

True to the Ben Chan tradition, Suyen Corporation welcomed the two celebrities as image models for its apparel lines with a fan- and fun-filled fashion show.

Finalists in the Bench-sponsored model search for the ABS-CBN reality TV show "Be Bench" also walked the runway with the latest Kashieca and Bench collections.

"All the clothes are in the stores now," said Chan who had the smarts to maximize the mileage he would get from the mall show.

Alonzo and Cruz both lingered around to sign autographs for fans, more of whom followed them into the Kashieca and Bench stores.

"I am so pleased to have found a brand that fits me well," said Alonzo. "Kashieca's clothes are so easy to put together because they have clean lines and a lot of fun details. These pieces are great for me and for my daily work. I may be young but I still need to look well put-together."

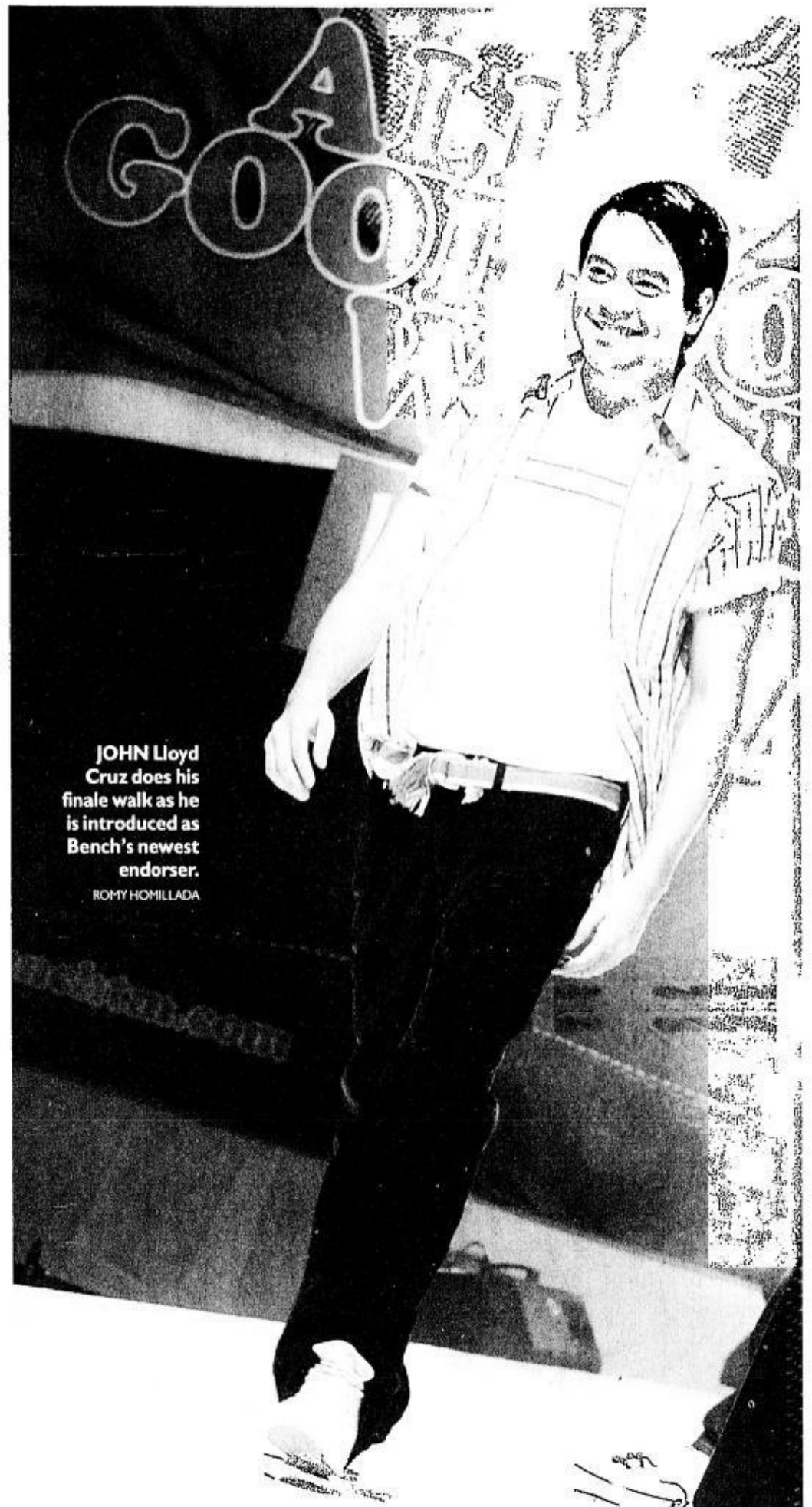
Chan said Alonzo personified the Kashieca style—fresh, feminine and fun. The new Luxe line has added glamour to the collection.

As for Cruz, he was a fitting addition to the Bench roster of celeb endorsers, according to Chan. Cruz is the biggest star du jour, judging by the roaring welcome he got from the crowd.

"We choose the best because we believe in excellence," said Chan. "From our designs to our workmanship to our market, Bench has always invested the best quality. We do it for our consumers. We want them to be happy with the Bench name as a whole."

KASHIECA endorser Bea Alonzo on the runway

ROMY HOMILLADA



JOHN Lloyd Cruz does his finale walk as he is introduced as Bench's newest endorser.

ROMY HOMILLADA



BENCH boss Ben Chan and Ayala Land's Rowena Tomeldan with Cruz, Alonzo and "Be Bench" finalists



CHECKED button-down shirt over gray tee and khakis



CHIC black-and-white dress and metallic accessories



SPORTY casual in denims, green polo shirt and white scarf

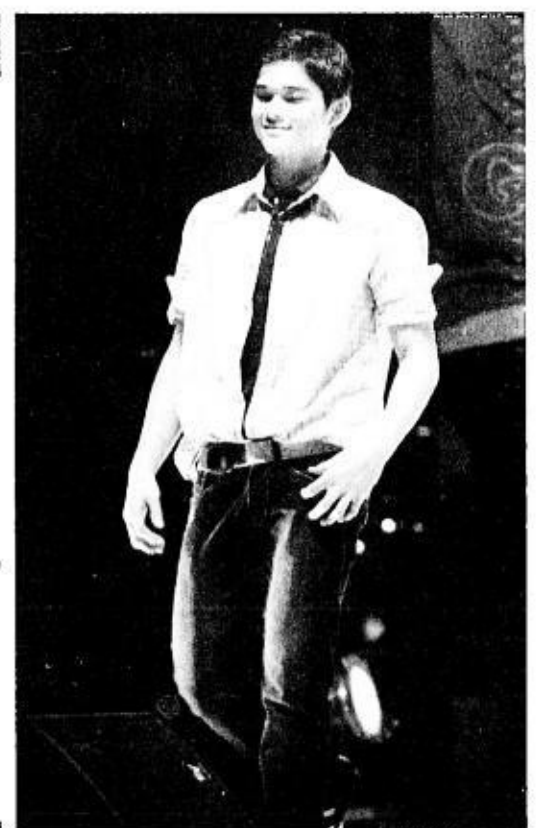


BLUE ¾-sleeve top, wide belt, white leggings and bead necklaces for added flair

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



"BE BENCH" finalists join in the fun at the fashion show.



ROMY HOMILLADA



KASHIECA on the center stage

Step up the platform

From page G1

nite standouts, literally and figuratively, as they help shoe lovers step up in style.

Platform heels elongate the body, helping women achieve the illusion of height and fluidity and making them look stunningly sexy.

Elegant patent heels can dress up an elaborate all-night ensemble as their gold and silver finish shimmers throughout the night.

Walk around the city in fashionable peep-toe platforms that come in red and black, fit for all-day and all-night wear. Or be in your best corporate outfit but still be in vogue with Via Venetto's stylish skintone pumps. These versatile finds go well with your chic office attire as well as with your sassy party wear.

Via Venetto stores are at Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center and TriNoma.



RED-HOT high peep-toe platforms



PLATFORM pumps from Via Venetto are designed for stylish, on-the-go women.

OKAY FOR COOL DAYS

OKA B. offers a variety of classic and contemporary shoes for women and men. Favorites from the women's line include Madison and Mini-Mule. The updated line also features accents like metallic finishes and animal prints. The men's line includes The Men's Thong, an updated version of the classic style; and The Men's Sport, perfect for those with an active lifestyle. All OKA B. shoes are manufactured in Buford, Georgia. OKA B. is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.



Panasonic ideas for life



Some of the county's most prominent professional photographers attend Panasonic's photo contest launch. In photo are Wig Tysmans, George Tapan, Mandy Navasero and Raffy Paredes (representing Jim Paredes) together with Panasonic Executive: Rene Almeda, Hiroyuki Iwaki and Ellen Suarez.

Deadline for Panasonic's "The Art of Life" photo contest extended!

Panasonic, one of the country's premier brands in the appliance and electronics industry, extends its target for the "The Art of Life by Panasonic" photo contest up to October 05, 2007, providing more chances for amateur and professional photographers to showcase their photography repertoire.

Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be put to the test.

Explore and tinker on motion, colors and angles vis-à-vis life's greatest wonders like travel, music, fashion, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings, highlighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living.

After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their artistic quest through a depiction of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the nearest Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life.

As the art in innovation is set in focus, Panasonic takes another milestone of modern technology for the society's continuous development.

Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used in the contest. Each entry should be both in an unmounted printed sample sizes placed in flat packages or mailing tubes and in digital files in CD format. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries.

Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000, second prize winner P30,000 and the third prize winner P15,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each.

Interested individuals may send their entries to Full Circle Communications at 15/F Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel. Nos. 637-1118/637-1116

RULES AND MECHANICS:

1. Eligibility. All photographers ages 18 and above are eligible. Only one entry per photographer is allowed.

2. Camera Brand. Any type or brands of cameras are allowed to be used for the contest.

3. Submission of Entries:

- Entries should be submitted in unmounted printed sample (size).
- Digital files: RGB (not CMYK), JPG format with a maximum width of 1024 pixels and a maximum height of 768 pixels (72 dpi). Digital files will be projected for the judges.
- Entries that are unmounted should be in flat packages or mailing tubes. Digital files must be in CD format.
- Strictly no Photoshop (or any other software) manipulation for the submitted entries.
- Each entry should have a one-sentence explanation for their captured images along with the appropriate title.
- Deadline for submission of entries will be on September 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. addressed to Full Circle Communications, Inc. at the 15th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

4. Criteria for Judging:

- Creativity - 30% The amount of imagination, artistic merit, originality and expressiveness of the photo.
- Relevance to theme - 25% How well does the entry achieve its client's mission. How does it exactly convey the message of the contest?
- Quality of Presentation - 20% The amount of style, skill and craft that was put into the entry.
- Visual Impact - 25% How well does the entry communicate?

5. Prizes: (Participants can only win once)

- Major Prizes:
- 1st Prize: Php 50,000 + a Panasonic Camera
 - 2nd Prize: Php 30,000 + a Panasonic Camera
 - 3rd Prize: Php 15,000 + a Panasonic Camera
- Finalists: Panasonic Certificates and Gift Bags.

6. Contest Promo. School tours will be conducted to promote "The Art of Life by Panasonic" photography contest.

7. Decision. Judges' decision is final.

8. Disqualification. Employees of Panasonic Philippines, its advertising and public relations agencies, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

9. Announcement of Winners. Winning entries shall be announced on October 15, 2007.

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'70s glamour, medieval reu

GRAPHIC and geometric prints plus dress with blouson sleeves

MEDIEVAL EMBELLISHMENT MEETS retro-1970s glamour and military decoration mixes with traditional plaids and checks in the latest collection from Dorothy Perkins, as modeled by Heather Marks.

Graphic and geometric prints update dresses while blouson sleeves add character to eye-catching blouses. Prints are blurred and painterly, as colors and patterns merge into one on tunics.

For a relaxed effect, try denim in primary colors teamed with a T-shirt dress or the must-have playsuit. Jeans are high-waisted and defining, while skirts with braces look casual and laid-back.

As the season progresses, styles are updated with hardware trims. Buckles and ornate fastenings are inspired by an eclectic mix of army and naval uniforms. Heraldic motif jersey pieces add a contemporary feel to stylish separates, such as the belted button-through military jacket.

For those cold days, wrap up in chunky knits layered under coats. Knitted dresses are wardrobe must-haves and range from dressed-up glitter-flecked styles to stylish belted grey options and the looser cable-knit jumper dresses in cream.

Duffel bomber jackets come in tartan checks while belted and cropped metallic leather jackets

BELTED wool coat in ochre worn with long black leather gloves



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Chicken Club Tacos

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Tomas Morato
Tel: 372.5017



with fluted sleeves create sharp silhouettes. The belted wool coat in ochre makes a striking impact worn with long black leather gloves.

Luxe fabrics add texture with velvets, jersey and lurex knits. Roman and monastic-inspired necklines with metallic studs and jeweled embellishment add theatrical detail to voluminous shapes. The predominantly dark palette is lifted by dazzling jewel tones of jade and amethyst.

The party season arrives early with border print dresses, slinky cowl necks and sequin shimmer T-shirt dresses. Choose from the purple paisley print tunic, the black satin dress with graphic print trim or the sexier black jersey halter-neck with jumbo jewels around the neckline.

Robinsons Specialty Stores Inc. is the exclusive franchisee of Dorothy Perkins, Topman, Topshop, Warehouse and Wallis in the Philippines.



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LIFESTYLE



Scoring with the Blue Eagles

AS THE ULTIMATE BRAND in sports attire and apparel, Adidas once again defines what's impossible to achieve. Keeping up the hype of the UAAP season, Ateneo Blue Eagles and all college basketball fans alike can now don their true blue school spirit through the newest Adidas apparel.

Having the recent launch a day before the much-awaited do-or-die match between ADMU and UST, the newest Adidas apparel was unveiled in the presence of the Blue Eagle players themselves. Former Blue Eagles Wesley Gonzales, Enrico Villanueva, and Larry Fonacier attended the launch and signed autographs, while ADMU Adidas items were also sold to Ateneo alumni.

Adidas Philippines is on its fourth year of an unprecedented partnership with Ateneo de Manila where the global athletic wear company outfits all the schools' varsity teams from grade-school to collegiate squads. And to solidify that partnership, Adidas managing director Joey Singian proudly says, "We decided to offer co-branded Adidas-Ateneo licensed apparel, similar to our licensed collegiate programs with top universities and colleges in the US such as UCLA, Boston College, Kansas, Indiana, Notre Dame, etc., elevating the way we look at our partnership with Ateneo."

From the start of the sponsorship, there has been a demand for Adidas products that Ateneans see the players wearing but haven't been able to find anywhere else. "Knock-offs have been in proliferation but we wanted to give Ateneans a sense of pride in wearing an apparel line with top-notch quality from a multinational organization," adds Singian. "We are deeply rooted in sports and share the same passion and enthusiasm Ateneans have for their athletic teams."

Current Blue Eagles team captain Chris Tiu, junior guard Jai Reyes, and senior swingman Ken Barracoso are endorsers of the brand, along with former players Wesley Gonzales, Larry, Fonacier, JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Villanueva, who are now professional basketball players in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

For the 2007 season, a fan-wear collection consisting of jackets, polo shirts, graphic tees, and a few accessories will be available through the Ateneo A-Shop and Adidas concept stores located in Rockwell, Glorietta, Megamall, TriNoma and Gateway. Prices range from P495 for kids' tees to P1,995 for adults' jackets.



ATENEEO de Manila University merchandise, now carried by Adidas



FORMER Blue Eagle varsity and now PBA player Wesley Gonzales signs an ADMU merchandise cap for a fan.

FOREVER Blue Eagles now pro cagers Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales and Enrico Villanueva pose with a Blue Eagle fan.

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MARLBORO promotions/Lamp manager Igee Tolentino, Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson and director for marketing Roy Manalili



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TIM Lim and Darlene Chan



CHRISTINA Palermo and Mark Chester Ang



DJ Kevin F. Habayeb



PRIME Dizon, Pinky Amador and Samuel Lawson



DJ Pete Gooding, all the way from the party island of Ibiza



MIKKI Cuenca, Nin

Smokin' hot party

Perfect Balance

Christine Jacob Sandejas tells us why achieving perfect balance is so important, in cooking as well as in life.

Christine Jacob Sandejas may have a lot on her plate these days, but she certainly knows how to keep things properly balanced. A devoted wife and mother, accomplished athlete, credible cook, and popular TV personality, Christine is the epitome of a confident, accomplished and balanced woman.

"Achieving perfect balance is very important, especially when you have to juggle the demands of your work, family and personal life all at the same time. I like to compare it to cooking, where you need to have the perfect balance of flavors to get a truly appetizing dish," says Christine.

A self-confessed loyal user of AJINOMOTO GINISA FLAVOR MIX, Christine reveals that she uses it in her everyday cooking. "It takes the guesswork out of cooking. Aji-Ginisa is the only complete seasoning mix with the perfect balance of garlic, onion and meat which gives that distinct 'ginisa flavor' that is so ingrained in Filipino cooking"

It's no wonder then that Aji-Ginisa has chosen Christine as its official endorser. She is now the face that brings Aji-Ginisa to life, the Philippines' No. 1 complete seasoning mix for the last 16 years.

Lastly, Christine shares, "I only endorse products that I actually use, and Aji-Ginisa certainly fulfills that requirement! I consider it an honor to represent a product that empowers Filipino homemakers on a daily basis by ensuring that their families are eating delicious dishes with perfectly balanced flavor".



WHEN IT COMES TO ROLLING out the red carpet, Marlboro does it with true flavor and style, dahlings. Thus, our town's latest cool spot by the bay, 1 Esplanade, played host to Marlboro's M Party.

The event pulled out all stops—even featuring dancers performing in midair. There were endless flows of booze and hard-hitting awesome mixes by the internationally acclaimed DJ duo, Deep Dish.

Only red-hot, hardcore party goers, who were the chosen few, came to this tres exclusive by-invitation-only event. They settled down with cool cocktails and yummy hors d'oeuvres.

But the whole thing was awesome and adrenaline-pumping, palanggas. We could expect only the unexpected.

Local master of mixes, DJ Kevin Ruiz, got us going with his beats, while Ibiza's Café Mambo resident Pete Gooding prepared some sunset sessions, which had many of us partying down in smooth M-style, dahlings.

Chris Nelson, hotshot managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., said, "The Marlboro spirit is all about vigor and dynamism and this is what the M Party series brings. We want it to become the rage, the party series that people will follow because it's the 'in' thing to be at." Amen, dahlings.

That hot night, Marlboro, delivered the goods, palanggas, with such style.

Sparkling evening

Even before *moi* breezed in—take note, palanggas, fashionably on time—I could already feel that it was going to be a night sparkling with beauty and glamour.

It was the night when Bulgari unveiled the new, chic 2007 Parentesi collection, at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

The invitees couldn't get enough of the exclusive preview of dazzling jewelry, which are now available in *Manille, palanggas*.

Some of the most eye-catching models breezed around wearing the awesome new pieces. The show was choreographed by Jackie Aquino. The models' hair was done by Essensuals Toni & Guy.

The hallway was lined with tables of yummy cocktails from The Peninsula Manila—from smoked duck breast on toasted brioche with confit shallots to Cajun salmon brochette. Topping it off were the calorific desserts, like Peninsula ice cream pralines; pistachio macaroons and plus, plus, *palanggas*.

Moët Hennessy through Olga Azarcon provided the super chilled Moët & Chandon champagne and Belvedere vodka. Future Trades' Eliza Real brought in Hardys Shiraz and Chardonnay wines.

"The new classic designer 2007 Parentesi collection is structured to give each piece a bold, modern look," said Bulgari's main man Mario Katigbak, no less.

Check out Bulgari boutiques for your holiday season shopping, *palanggas*, at the 6750 Shopping Arcade (tel. 8933189) and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati (7285061).

Metro hiM anniversary

The Rockwell Tent was brimming with tons of invitees who, despite the pouring rain, dashed over to witness the "True Gentlemen revealed as Platinum Men of Metro hiM," dahlings.

CARLO Tadiar with Cynthia Mangahas and Ferdinand dela Cruz



TATLER publisher Irene Francisco with Bulgari's Mario Katigbak and Moët Hennessy's Olga Azarcon



BABY Cruz of Frank Provost



PETER Jentes with model Bianca Valerio and ace photographer Alex Van Hagen



EVIE Costa with Mellie Ablaza and Helen Ong



GIORDANO president and GM Larry Lim with my fave traffic-stopper Tessa Prieto Valdes, Giordano fashion plate VP Zita Lim, and Elizabeth and Jesus Fernando



COCA Cola Tigers' Joseph Yeo with girlfriend Angela Medalla



UST Tigers' Japs Cuan with girlfriend, pretty as a picture Leslie



AJ DEE with Pinoy Dream Academy's Gemma Fitzgerald



LEAH Puyat and Bibai Gaisano with La Copa's Regine Sambalido and Melanie Go



METRO Society's Ipe Cruz and editor in chief Raul Manzano with Rustan's Malou Francisco (center)



PLATINUM Man Dr. Windell Rivera

The occasion marked Metro hiM's third anniversary. The night honored eight gentlemen who know the importance of culture, history, and the environment and value the mind and body.

The event was co-presented by Globe.Platinum.

Metro hiM's eight Platinum Men consisted of Sen. Chiz Escudero, multi-awarded actor Piolo Pascual, director Laurenti Dyogi, Victor Consunji, who embodies the well-rounded and refined gentleman, Odyssey Music and Video president Jay Fonacier, Milo Naval, Cebuana Lhuillier CEO Jean Henri Lhuillier, and microbiologist Windell Rivera, who developed a new and accurate tool for diagnosing gastrointestinal disease, an instrument that has greatly contributed to improved public health.

We were then ushered into the photo gallery section of the Rockwell Tent, where we sipped our cocktail drinks while we checked the photos of the eight men of the hour, and the beauty of La Mesa Nature Park and La Mesa Watershed.

Adorable Bianca Valerio hosted the affair beautifully, as Metro hiM's brilliant, young editor in chief, Carlo Tadiar and ABS-CBN publishing head Ernie Lopez explained the importance of La Mesa Nature Park and La Mesa Watershed, and how Bantay Bata had helped conserve these resources, *palanggas*.

Then, it was raining men, *palanggas*, with the fast-paced men's fashion show. It had the invitees applauding today's awesome cool brands such as Daniel Hechter, Folded & Hung, Memo, Soda Man, Paul Smith, Ben Sherman, Levi's and Dockers San Francisco, *natch*.



Quiz, Marlboro's Angela de Vera and Elian



a Tanchanco, TJ Romasanta and Sandra Lacson



RUPERT Jacinto with Nonie Basilio, Lulu Castañeda and cardiologist Dr. Randy Francisco



y with Steph Chong, Arthur Young and Jon



NYMPHA Valencia and Dinky Laperal



PEPPER Teehankee and Abba Napa

Japs Cuan and Giordano

Moi remembers that whenever I was in Hong Kong, among the must-stop and buy-in-shop I'd go to was Giordano.

Well, no need to go to HK now, *palanggas*, as this global retail brand took its latest designs to the catwalk via the awesome and grand World Without Strangers Fashion Show at the TriNoma Mall.

The lead star of the show was the Denim Fall Collection, with a total of 140 pieces, that included the brand's trendy line of classic and contemporary clothing items and accessories highlighting Giordano's signature Denim Jeans.

The show was superbly staged by Runway Productions' director Audie Espino and Giordano operations manager Joyce Sia.

The event was packed, dahlings, with trendsetters, fashion critics, and celebrities, all applauding every piece that was shown from this latest collection, *palanggas*.

Easily the most applauded of the models was Japs Cuan of the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers.

Easy, casual and trendy. Hey, that's Giordano, *di bala!*

Kumpletuhin ang sarap ng buhay!

- Christine Jacob-Sandejas
Mother, Athlete, TV personality

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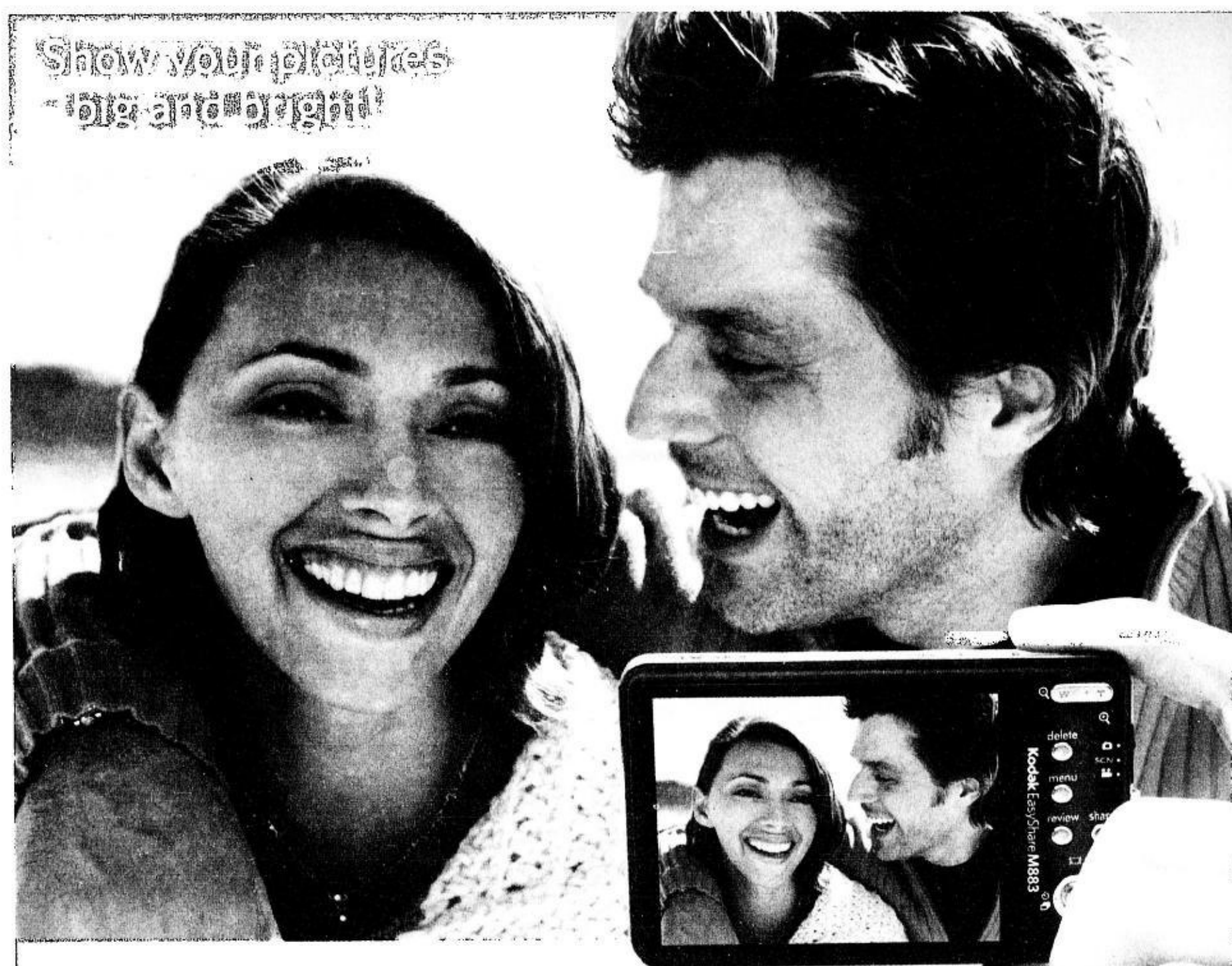
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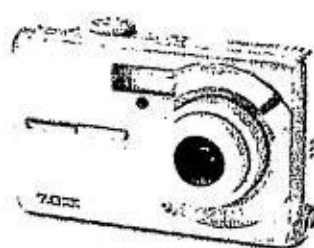
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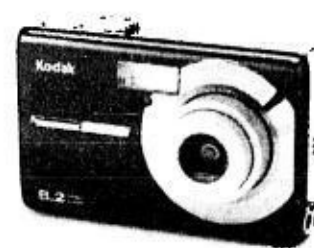


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GOINGS ON

Design series debuts

DISCOVERY TRAVEL & LIVING LAUNCHES an interior design show, "The Wow Factor," 10-11 p.m., Sept. 28. To be aired every Friday thereafter, with replays at 4 p.m. the following day. It will feature award-winning designer and presenter Tara Bernerd. In each episode, Bernerd will listen to client's ideas and use them as a springboard to come up with designs working with a budget clearly indicated.

HOME FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Home Gallery is holding its annual Home Fair until Sept. 30. Shop within the promo period and get big discounts on home furnishing, appliances and home decor. SLEDS and Home Gallery will give away waste baskets for the first 500 shoppers with a minimum P1,000 single purchase of any home product during the promo.

HOME/TECHNO FAIR. Festival Supermall Alabang presents the Home, Techno and Digital Fair until Sept. 30 at 2/L, Carousel Court. Get zero-percent interest when you use your Citibank Visa and MasterCard. Mall hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 8503514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

DESIGN LAB 07 FINALISTS. Electrolux has announced the eight finalists for this year's global Design Lab competition with eco-design as theme. This is the fifth year of the annual global competition. Hundreds of design students from around the world submitted ideas for eco-friendly and sustainable household appliances and solutions for 2020. The finalists are: Return Po, plastic decomposer by Juan Ying-Hao, Cranbrook Academy of Art, United States; Fog Shower water-saving shower by João Diego Schimansky, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil; Pebble: solar food cooker by Laura Pandelle, École Bouille, France; e-Wash: natural detergent washing machine by Levente Szabó, Moholy-Nagy University of Art & Design, Hungary; Pure: dual kitchen sink and detergent-free compact dishwasher by Tatjana Voronova, Hochschule für Gestaltung Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany; NatureWind: eco-solar air cleaner by Bae Won-Ho, Dong-A University, South Korea; Circompo: automatic food compostor by Thanat Tengamnuay, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; and Go Fresh: energy-saving fridge with individual, honeycomb-shaped compartments by He Cheng Fei, Jiangnan University, China. Winner, to be announced Nov. 28, gets 5,000 euro and a six-month internship at an Electrolux global design center.

COMPETITION. Philtrade Exhibits with select members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines present "Black and White Couture Competition," Oct. 5 at the SM Mega Trade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 8250804, 8253482 or 09208766505.

EXAM. The Japanese Language Proficiency Test is set on Dec. 2, 9 a.m., at three venues—De La Salle University, Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Anglionto Avenue, Lanang. Call 8116155 to 58, 082-2352971, 032-3437662.

SEMINAR. Philtrade Exhibits in cooperation with the Philippine Mortuary Association present a seminar on Mortuary Management, Oct. 5-6 at the Mega Trade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 8250804, 8253482 or 09208766505.

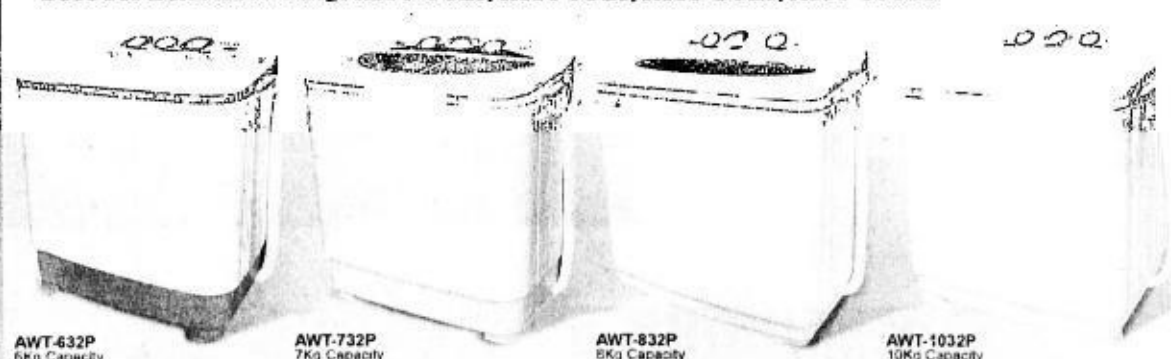
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MARARI Beach resort

Wellness pilgrimage is the way to go today

MANY PEOPLE'S idea of a leisure trip today is going on a wellness pilgrimage.

In the '80s, futurists predicted that going back to nature and cultivating spirituality and well-being would be the rage in the next decades. While we believed that prediction, we didn't foresee the paradigm shift such a trend would create in today's lifestyle.

Today, spas and wellness centers are the new mecca, akin to what the shopping mall was in the '90s. They provide the lifestyle business boom everywhere.

Baby boomers—the biggest economic force worldwide—are moving heaven and earth to keep their body and mind fit. Their example is being emulated by generations X and Y.

That's why Singapore Airlines' idea of flying a media group to Kerala, India, to dis-

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson
San Juan

cover its ayurvedic resorts two weeks ago wasn't only timely, it was also right on the pulse of the market.

However, staying for seven days with nine media personalities with perhaps double that number of characters and eccentricities in them may not exactly spell well-being, but Singapore Airlines' marketing head Rita Dy managed that feat anyway. And, indeed, the trip and the company were good for one's well-being.

Kerala is in the southwestern tip of India, flanked by the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats mountain range, with a backwater artery that's perfect for

The ayurvedic resorts in Kerala, India, inject ancient science into today's cool lifestyle

sailing—in a fully decked houseboat.

Kerala is said to be India's No. 1 state, its most affluent with a strong middle class, with 100-percent literacy, and also its cleanest. It shows. The place is not congested. It's not only rustic, it's almost idyllic. You could see people deriving livelihood from the sea and land.

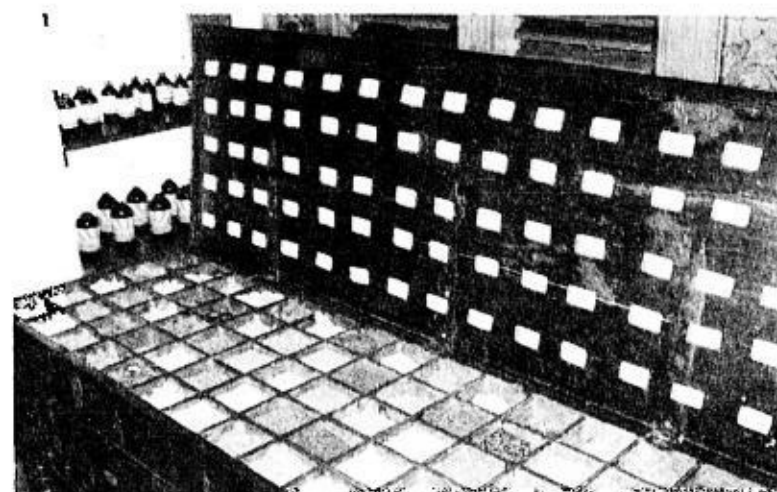
Kerala is India's age-old source of spices, the variety of which is enough to overwhelm you. You could smell them in the air.

Kerala was the destination of conquerors of centuries ago, led by Vasco de Gama 500 years ago. That's why the architecture of the Portuguese and the Dutch (who came later) is still beautifully evident—those stimulating ochre and melon colors diluted by the onslaught of time. And those saris on women—in vibrant saffron, fuchsia, gold, you name it, there's a color to lure the eye.

Today, Kerala, from Cochin to Thekkady, is not only a scenic gem, it is also on top of the global pursuit for wellness. Its ayurvedic resorts and hotels put an ancient science into today's cool lifestyle.



GARDEN cottages at Spice Village in Thekkady, Kerala, are made of split bamboo and thatched roofs made of eggplant grass.



HEALING herbs used in ayurvedic treatments and rejuvenation sessions at Marari Beach, also in Kerala

It prides itself in being the center of ayurveda, the age-old Indian science that's known to a few Filipinos, especially those who are into yoga and meditation. Ayurveda (ayu meaning life, veda meaning knowledge or science) is an ancient, intricate system of health and healing indigenous to India, particularly to Kerala.

We have neither the expertise nor the space to dwell on it here, but briefly, ayurveda is practiced by physicians in India who work for a five-year Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery.

These physicians believe equilibrium is the key to a person's health. Ayurveda isn't so much treatment, as the prevention of disease. The ayurvedic doctor uses herbs, leaves, bark, roots, stems of shrubs—health and healing from nature—and even spices and metals such as silver and gold. These go with strict diet and rejuvenation sessions such as oil massages.

In ayurveda, a person is believed to be made up of five elements—space, air, fire, water and earth—combined with physiological functions of *vata* (i.e. circulation, respiration), *pitta* (metabolism, digestion),

kapha (growth). It is the imbalance among these that causes illness or even death.

At the Marari Beach Resort, the ayurvedic doctor told the diabetic member of our group that daytime sleeping or napping doesn't do her good. Daytime sleep is not good for diabetics, he told our stunned group.

We went to the nature resorts of the CGH chain, a network of hotels and resorts founded by an Indian visionary, Jose Dominic, who believed every development must be environment-friendly.

These hotels are veritable botanical gardens, bird and even wildlife sanctuaries, that recycle their water, use biogas from food wastes, use organic fertilizers on its land, and solar panels. They are a heartening showcase of eco-friendly systems.

At the Spice Village in Thekkady, Kerala, we got our first taste of ayurvedic massage. The place was unlike any spa we've seen, whether here or in Thailand or Bali. The room is so spare, there's only a flat wooden bed in the center and a stove (!) in the corner. You strip naked—as in everything goes.

You're given a cheesecloth with strings to wear, like a G-string. You sit on a chair, and the masseuse pours coconut oil on your scalp, your forehead.

The massage begins on your head, because like an inverted tree, that's where your roots are. The head massage alone is enough to put you to sleep, even as you're seated upright.

You are led to that high massage bed for the oil massage. The masseuse rubs the oil on her palms so that her hands are soothingly warm when they run down your body in kneading motion, sometimes using her thumbs to apply pressure. You feel the energy seeping into you from those hands. Then she uses two heated herbal pouches to rub down your body.

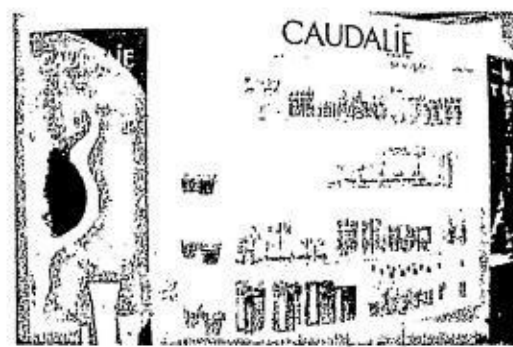
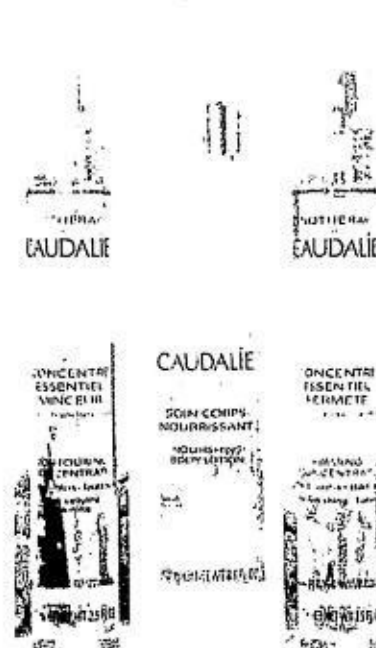
The shower is just as spartan. You sit on a monobloc chair and the masseuse pours water and herbal powder on you.

At the Coconut Lagoon, two masseuses do synchronized massage, with sesame oil. It is vigorous, those two pairs of hands incessantly rubbing and kneading your back, from shoulders to toes.

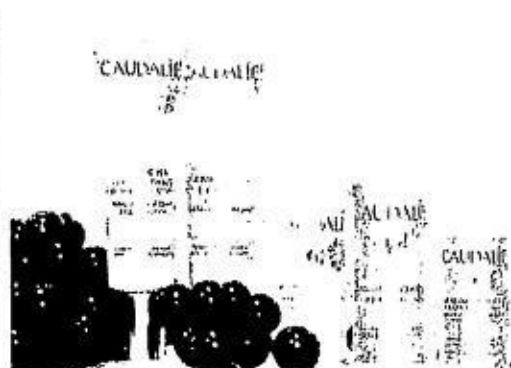
"Come back to nature and be present. Feel the energy being transmitted to you," the ayurvedic doctor at Spice Village told us.

It is welcome news that Singapore Airlines is preparing reasonably priced travel packages to these Kerala resorts and hotels giving ayurvedic treatments. The menus of treatments are attractive, from slimming/stress management program to treatments for back pain and longevity.

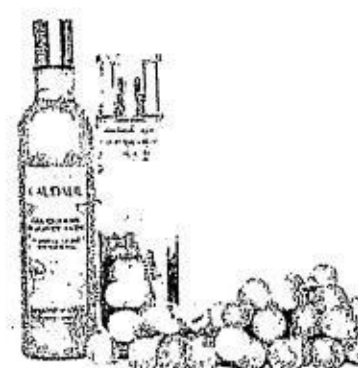
There's even "vajjekarana"—only for men—"ensures longer sexual pleasure and treats disorders," the Marari Beach brochure said; it's a 7-14-day program. Nobody in the group got to try that, obviously.



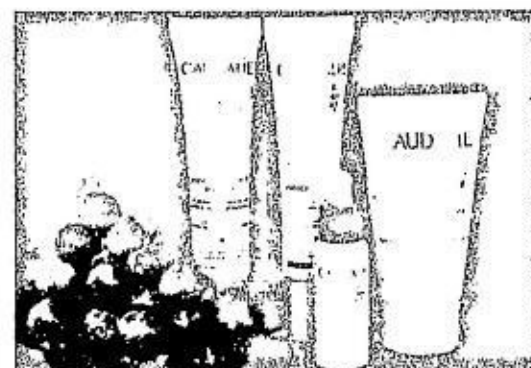
CAUDALIE Paris Skincare uses grapes originating from the vineyards of France.



GRAPEVINE wonder to fight signs of ageing



ENERGIZING Fleur de Vigne



MOISTURIZING Caudalie Nourishing range

Beauty from the grapevine

CAUDALIE PARIS, A SKINCARE line that harvests beauty benefits from grapes originating from the vineyards of Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte near Bordeaux, France is now back in Manila, and can be exclusively found at Marionnaud at SM Mall of Asia.

Caudalie's history is a marriage of earth and destined encounters. Mathilde and Bertrand Thomas, a young and handsome couple, created the Caudalie skincare line in 1995.

They were working closely with professor Vercauteren, who discovered that grape seeds were rich in antioxidant polyphenol.

Caudalie is a wine term designating the measurement unit of the duration that wine flavors remain in the mouth after tasting. One sec-

ond of persistence is equal to one "caudalie"; the better the wine, the more caudalie it has.

Caudalie is really beauty on the grapevine, not only because of its key ingredients, but also because of the buzz it has generated because of celebrities who consider it among their beauty must-haves.

Madonna, for example, is said to order 12 bottles of the Beauty Elixir, Caudalie's signature star product every month. Inspired by the "elixir of youth" made famous by Queen Isabelle of Hungary, this marvelous skincare product smoothes features, tightens pores and provides an instant burst of radiance to the complexion.

Eva Longoria loves the Vinopure Matte Finish Fluid,

which regulates oil production, refines skin texture, and is ideal for combination skin in need of antioxidant protection.

Kirsten Dunst uses the oil-free satiny Vinoperfect Radiance Serum Complexion Correcting line that boosts the complexion's radiance and appearance.

Sarah Jessica Parker likes Caudalie's Moisturizing Skin Mask that soothes and moisturizes even the driest skin.

Caudalie's product range consists of its Cleansing and Toning Line; a Lifting Line that provides exceptional firming action as it stimulates cellular renewal for younger looking skin; and the Energizing Line that preserves youthful skin. The Nourishing Line ensures comfortable, radiant and youthful skin;

while the Purifying Line balances and protects combination and oily skin.

Caudalie has also produced the Vinotherapie Line, to simulate the spa experience it created in 1999 right in the comforts of your own home. This includes a range of shower gels, nourishing body lotion, French milled soap and body scrubs all inspired by the vineyards in Crushed Cabernet, Sauvignon and Merlot.

To launch the Caudalie line, Marionnaud hosted an exclusive wine-tasting session sponsored by Ralph's. Caudalie's Asia representative Diana Diep enlightened guests with its secret beauty recipe straight from the grapevine.

Marionnaud is at 2/L, Main Mall, SM Mall of Asia.



TREI Sales' Abby de Guzman, Travel Life Magazine's Gel Tarrayo and Bing Ramillan



MARIONNAUD assistant marketing manager Carmen Araneta-Reyes flanked by lawyer friends Bernadette Manulid and Bernadette de Guzman



VINOTHERAPIE range, inspired by the famous Vinotherapie Spa

Starting with a clean slate

IT'S BEEN SIX months since I ran out of vitamins and supplements for weight control, skin and hair. I have not been able to replenish because I've been busy.

Two months after my last complete supplement program, I had myself tested by NuSkin's machine to measure antioxidant levels. They tested dangerously low.

The full effect after three months?

I had gained weight, my hair was greasy and started falling. I had less energy. I had bad bathroom habits, cystic acne, allergies, lower abdominal bulge (puson), and sagging cheeks.

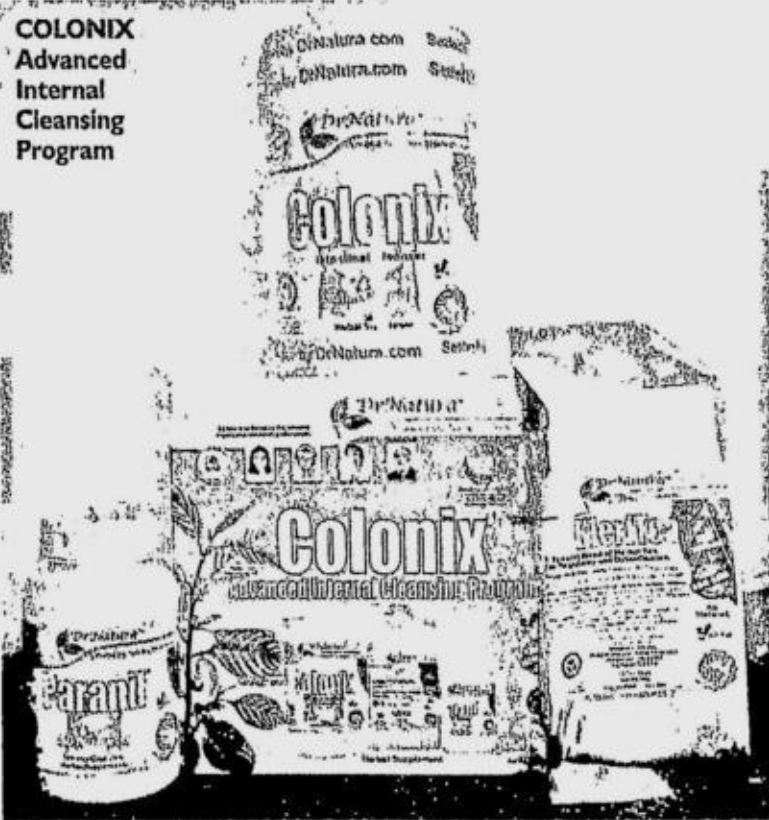
I had aged five to 10 years in a few months due to free radical damage fueled by stress.

Taking the supplements now would not be a very good idea because the toxin accumulation in my body would block most of it so my absorption would not be maximized.

It was time for my internal cleansing program. Ultimate Fasting Cleanse (UFC) would be my best bet, but since I have taken to walking 12,500 to 15,000 steps a day, it would not be too smart for me not to eat anything for five days except fiber and tablets.

Some of the people I know who tried UFC cheated by eating meat and processed food. Needless to say they demanded something that would clean them up inside thoroughly but

COLONIX
Advanced
Internal
Cleansing
Program



allow food intake.

The best road-tested options:

1. Colonix (P6,500 for a 30-day supply pack). Perfect for those who have never tried a fasting-cleansing program. You have two easy steps in the morning and one at night before bed. When you wake up, you take Parani anti-parasite tablets on an empty stomach to kill off any parasites inside you that is causing the hunger pangs and absorbing all the nutrients for themselves, causing one to bloat due to toxin build-up.

After 15 minutes, take one

scoop Colonix fiber with probiotics to scrub off the impacted waste that all those constipated moments have permanently lodged into your intestines and colon.

Did you know that there are people who carry around up to 30 pounds extra of hardened waste that's why they stay overweight even when they don't eat much?

At night, seep the Kleri Tea in a mug of hot water, but make sure you are home because it can make you very sleepy so it's dangerous to drive.

The catch: Some may experi-

MAKEOVER

911

Kinny Salas



ence tummy cramps when they wake up, but they will become fine for the rest of that day.

Also some first-timers must do the program for 60 to 90 days to be sure everything is cleaned out. It took decades to pile all the toxins up so don't expect them to clear up after a month—unless you are willing to do the five-day UFC program without food.

In addition, drink lots of water since lack of water may cause fiber to harden and clog up your stomach.

Parasites and their eggs do come out of you—some see them as early as day four while for others it takes two weeks or more to drive them out. It may be scary but would you rather keep parasites inside you breeding?

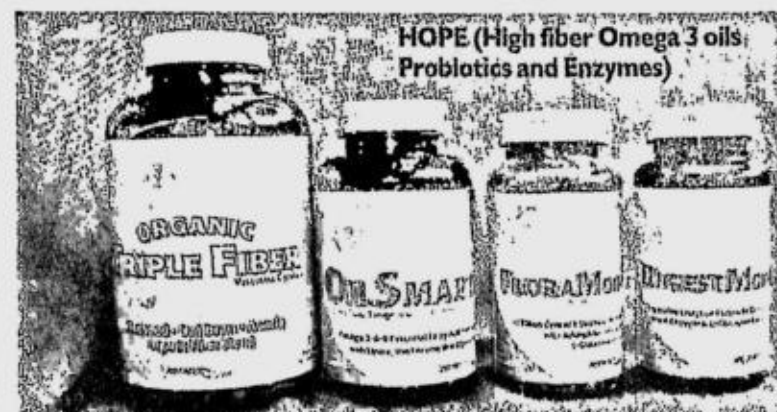
Colonix is available at Philosophy by Mikaela Salon. Call 8921574 for inquiries.

High-fiber

2. The H.O.P.E. system stands for H-igh fiber, O-mega 3 oils, P-robiotics, and E-nzymes.

A healthy digestive system is the key to weight control and keeping yourself healthy, happy and functional. So Hope is my maintenance plan after Colonix

One should purge toxins and parasites from one's system before going on another round of anti-oxidant vitamins and supplements



or UFC.

High fiber promotes bowel regularity, checks cholesterol and excess sugar, and eliminates liver and intestinal toxins.

Omega 3 oils contain Lipase, an enzyme that digests fats so less is absorbed by our body. Probiotics Flora More are good bacteria that keep bad bacteria under control. Those who are low in Probiotics are prone to yeast infection that causes sugar cravings and stubborn excess weight, diarrhea, constipation, gas, bloating, lactose intolerance, weight gain at the slightest carbohydrate intake, and low immune system (so you're always sick or have colds and are prone to rashes and acne breakouts).

We need at least five billion good bacteria daily. For example, if you have an enzyme shortage, you will experience gas, bloating, heartburn and fatigue after eating.

Digest More contains a variety of enzymes so you can efficiently digest everything; starch, protein, dairy, fats, vegetables and sugar.

The treatment helped me digest all that excess fat and protein when I went on a high-protein, low-carbohydrate diet.

Digest More is available at Health Express. E-mail customerservice@healthexpressph.com or call 8927978.

Results: 1. Expect to lose up to 20 pounds the first month if you are very overweight due to chronic constipation. 2. Clearer skin 3. Fresh breath 4. No cravings for sweets and fast food 5. Flatter stomach and no PMS 6. Less hair fall 7. Regular bowel movement and reduction in appetite

When your system is cleared up and healthy, it will be more responsive to skin treatments and vitamin/supplements absorption will be maximized.

Launch party redefines skin perfection

AT THE RECENT launch party of Olay White Radiance, 400 of the metro's young style mavens, beauty and fashion experts gathered for a night of girl talk on "my kind of perfect."

Olay once again created a breakthrough product that promises women perfect-looking fairness.

But what exactly did they mean by perfect-looking fairness? Olay White Radiance's brand manager Michelle Villarroel explained, "Instead of just whitening, Olay White Radiance goes beyond that and offers to bring out the natural radiance of your skin. The truth is the perfect fairness for you may not be the same for others because we were all born with different skin. So it's about achieving fairness that's perfect for you by addressing any or all of the obstacles that are a hindrance for you."

With an improved formulation that has 10 times more whitening Niacinamide, 2.5 times more Vitamin E antioxidant and SPF 24 sun protection, it protects women from UV damage while correcting and enhancing their skin tone so they get fairness that's just right for them.

The party unveiled Olay's White Radiance ambassadors: "it" girl Isabelle Diaz-Daza, photographer Monica Barretto and makeup artist Denise Go. Also present was skincare consultant



OLAY White Radiance



MEMBERS of the Olay White Radiance Circle



OLAY White Radiance

Dr. Jade Tiongco, who gave tips on getting perfect-looking fair skin. The event also launched the Olay Radiance Circle, an exclusive group comprised of 100 of the metro's young style mavens.

"We chose these women because not only are they experts who are fulfilling their vision of perfect, in their own way, each of them are committed to helping women around them become more beautiful and closer to each one's kind of perfect," said Villarroel.

"They tried White Radiance and loved it so much that they uploaded their stories to the blogsite and even got their friends to use it. We plan to invite more young ladies to join in time," she adds.

To cap off the evening, a necklace designed by Happy David was given to the ladies.

Hair accessories that stay put

THE GOODY WOMEN'S Stayput Collection carries high performance hair accessories with patent-pending technology that provides more holding power than traditional hair ornaments.

Bothered by stray hair, fly-aways, and bangs that get in the eyes as a result of all that snipping and trimming? Applying mousse or blow-drying the hair might be an effective solution but it's not an option especially for women who are always on the run.

Goody Stayput headbands offer an easy way out with hair accessories that provide the same secure hold like hair products, minus the fuss.

A stylish accent to bobs and short styles are flat headbands and elastics designed to stay in place no matter what your activity is for the day. Another style is the Goody fabric headwrap which comes with the Fit-Clip technology that can be easily adjusted to your head size.

There's nothing more annoying than wet, sweaty hair sticking on your face after a workout or a round of badminton. Avoid unnecessary distraction with a two-layer headband or the Fitclip No-Slide headwrap designed with the Stayput technology.

Put off by short layers and bangs? Soft Touch barrettes and contour clips won't slide off, roll or fall out of your hair as you dash through all the maddening deadlines in the office. Work



THE GOODY Women's Stayput Collection

out your style with Activewear clips for your hair.

Another version of these clips is the Oval Comfort Gel barrette. Textured hinges automatically clasp on and shape to your hair for the perfect hold. These hair ornaments have twice the hold of traditional barrettes—click clasp once for thick hair, and twice for thin locks.

A must-own for fashionistas and trend watchers this season are metallic headbands and knit headwraps that beautifully frame the face. These chic accessories work both with short and long hair.

For little misses who like to play dress up (like their moms and sisters), Goody has created a separate line designed to cater to young girls' fun and playful personalities. Feminine details in ponytails and barrettes like

ruffles, flowers, cute insects and beads will surely have girls looking sweet and neat. Available in fun colors like pink, yellow, violet and orange, the Goody Stayput Girls Collection are offered in no-slide and braided headbands, elastics, sporty ponytailers, knit headwraps, contour combs and gel barrettes.

Goody arms you for the rainy season with a free umbrella for every P600 worth of Goody items. Offer is good until supplies last.

Goody is available in all leading department stores nationwide.

Skin care beyond whitening

GLUTA WHITE & FIRM AIMS to set a new standard for skin whitening and firming.

Derm Pharma Inc., which introduced such products as Regroe, Derm A and Skintel, has launched Gluta White & Firm.

An intensive skin whitening and firming system, Gluta White & Firm helps make the skin fairer and more contoured in a shorter time.

Gluta White & Firm's active whitening and slimming complex combines glutathione, L-carnitine, lipofirm and clair blanche.

Glutathione, one of the active components, is supposed to help turn dark pigmentation into light tones.

Clair blanche is a unique fusion of seven active ingredients that helps inhibit melanin formation.

Gluta White & Firm is designed to whiten skin in two weeks while preventing the development of freckles and age spots. A gentle sunscreen provides protection from the sun.

L-carnitine and lipofirm help achieve a sexier and slimmer appearance. L-carnitine is a naturally occurring substance found in most cells of the body. It assists in the processing of fat and helps elevate certain enzymes for processing sugars, starches, and other carbohydrates.

Lipofirm helps reduce adipose fat (fat found in tissue just below the skin) and has firming, slimming and draining effects.

Gluta White & Firm works within the skin and on the surface to counteract lack of resilience and tone due to loss of

collagen.

The line includes Gluta White & Firm Lotion, Gluta White & Firm Soap, Gluta White & Firm Facial Wash, Gluta White & Firm Facial Cream, Gluta White & Firm Deodorant and Gluta White & Firm Pressed Powder.

Gluta White & Firm is available in all leading department and drug stores nationwide (tel. 8173303).



GLUTA White & Firm



NEW faces of Olay White Radiance, from left: Isabelle Diaz-Daza, Denise Go, Monica Barretto and Dr. Jade Lim-Tiongco

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KRISTINE HERMOSA

The Bible is n.y favorite book. It has taught me a lot. It gave me strength, especially when Diet (Ocampo) and I broke up and I lost my drive to work. The Bible gave me back the inspiration to go back to acting. Since then, I make sure to read it whether or not I have problems. I don't always understand what the Holy Book is telling me, but I try my best to abide by it.

Marinel R. Cruz



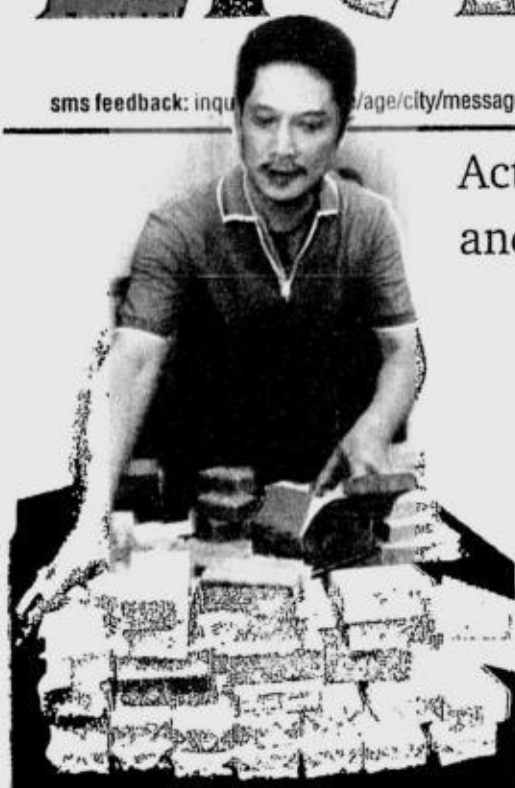
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ROMY HOMILLADA

Soaps for his fans

By Cora Lucas

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF you see actor Juan Rodrigo in his front yard mixing coconut oil, sodium hydroxide and oil-soluble dye.

Few know that the telenovela regular is a chemist whose latest venture is a line of handmade organic soaps meant to be unique, personalized presents for his fans.

"May mga fans ako na every Christmas at birthday ko, pinupuntahan ako sa bahay. Naubusan ako ng ideas kung ano ibibigay ko sa kanila," says JR, who is currently at work on the Judy Ann Santos telenovela "Ysabella," the forthcoming Kristine Reyes movie "Green Paradise," and an environment concert series with Nonoy Zuñiga and Mari Nallos. "Naisip ko, bakit hindi sabon, para sarili kong gawa?"

Not for sale ... yet

JR finished BS Chemistry at the Far Eastern University. He used to be a laboratory analyst for quality control at the Philippine Refining Company, now Unilever. For three years, he was part of a team that ensured the company's soap and shampoo products met the required standards.

JR swears by his Obaya soaps: skin whitening, moisturizing Papaya-Calamansi; anti-aging Carrot; anti-bacterial, anti-fungal Tea

SOAPS / J2

Actor Juan Rodrigo is a chemist, too, and an active environment advocate

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5pm

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6pm

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and

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GALLERIA

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:40 3:00 RESIDENT EVIL 3 5:10 7:20 9:30
3 indieSine: GULONG 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 NO RESERVATION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	9 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
5 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA 12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50	10 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

exclusive
screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee,
Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?



NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

ERMITA

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	5 NO RESERVATION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 SHOOT 'EM UP 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:00 2:25 RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:50 7:10 9:25
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00	7 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	



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GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
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METRO EAST

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00	5 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	6 THE BRAVE ONE 1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 11:25 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:05	7 NO RESERVATION 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:20, 1:40 RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:00 6:20 8:40	8 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 NO RESERVATION	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

1 NO RESERVATION 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45

STA. ROSA

1 THE LAST LEGION	1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 NANCY DREW	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 DAYWATCH
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 DISTURBIA

DASMARINAS

1 DISTURBIA	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE BRAVE ONE	2 THE HOST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES

1 THE BRAVE ONE	1 THE INVASION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 A LOVE STORY
3 SKINWALKERS	3 1408
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	

STARMILLS

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN	5 RUSH HOUR 3
3 SKINWALKERS	6 THE BRAVE ONE

BACOLOD

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN	1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW	3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DISTURBIA	4 UNDERDOG
5 WAITRESS	5 SKINWALKERS
6 LIGAW LIHAM	6 STOMP THE YARD

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NO RESERVATIONS MTRCB GP 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	3 THE BRAVE ONE (R-13) 1:00, 3:50 CHUCK AND LARRY (R-13) 6:40, 9:30
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 MTRCB R-13 12:20, 2:45 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU MTRCB GP 12:10, 2:30 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

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2 RESIDENT EVIL
11:30, 2:05, 4:40
7:15, 9:50

PROMENADE
NOW SHOWING

3 RESIDENT EVIL
12:00, 2:35, 5:10
7:45, 10:20

4 CHUCK & LARRY
12:00, 2:40, 5:20
8:00, 10:35

5 NO RESERVATIONS
10:40, 1:00, 3:20
6:40, 9:00, 11:20

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September 29, 2007
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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
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R-13

RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:35, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

NO RESERVATIONS
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
G

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50
G

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PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. and over only be admitted if accompanied by a parent or adult

december boys
after that summer holiday

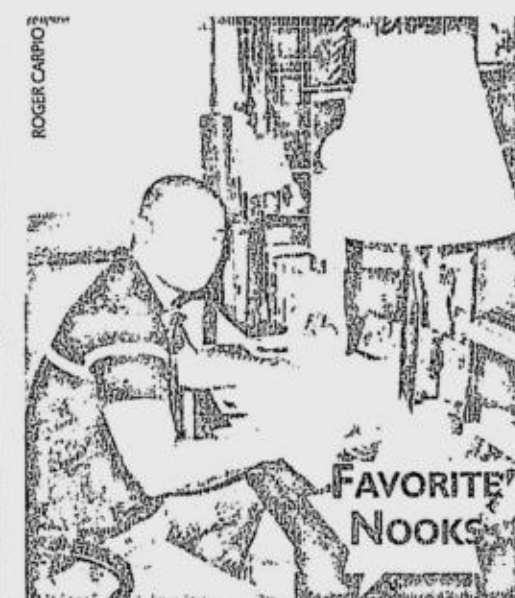
after that summer holiday

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

JED MADELA

My five-month-old pet Basti is a typical beagle—he loves to play and run around the house. When he's hungry or needs something, he gets his squeaky toy and makes a lot of noise. He won't stop until someone minds him. What a brat, huh? But he's really *malambing*. After work, I go straight to his kennel. When he sees me, he jumps with excitement. That makes my exhaustion disappear. He eats anything, even fruits. He loves apples. I give him vitamins every day and, after his meals, we brush his teeth. Apart from Basti (who lives with me), I have four other dogs (who live with my aunt): a pug named Max, a mini pinscher named Lana and her two pups Diego and Carlos. Early this week, Lana gave birth to one male and two female puppies.

Bayani San Diego Jr.



MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO

My favorite part of the house is my work room. I actually like all the rooms in this house, but I spend a lot of time in my office, where I write letters and read books. I can make a mess of it and no one will mind. Plus, there's a window there that leads to the terrace. The room is very me. That's where I keep my Bruce Lee posters and other personal stuff. I like the TV room as well, where I watch sports shows.

Bayani San Diego Jr.



Soaps . . . From page J1

Tree; and natural-bleaching Kamias. The actor says he has not used other soaps since he perfected his formulas. He has yet to put them in the market, though. In his front yard, JR demonstrates how to make the Papaya-Calamansi variant — from the mixing of coconut oil with sodium hydroxide and oil-soluble dye, to the pouring of additives like vitamin E, alpha hydroxy acid and mild scents. He says he allows the mixture to dry overnight before cutting it to size.

Secret ingredient

"Para hindi harsh sa skin," he explains "at least two weeks from the mixing bag gamitin."

He has a "secret ingredient," he says. Although organic products are normally unscented, JR says his products suit the Filipino preference for sweet-smelling soap.

The "hobby" has brought him to scienc fairs at the World Trade Center in Manila. The products have made their way to other countries, too, thanks to loyal fans who order by the bulk to sell abroad.

How about an official endorser? "Saka n'yon, if it becomes a big business," he says, smiling widely. "Sa ngayon ako muña."

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA



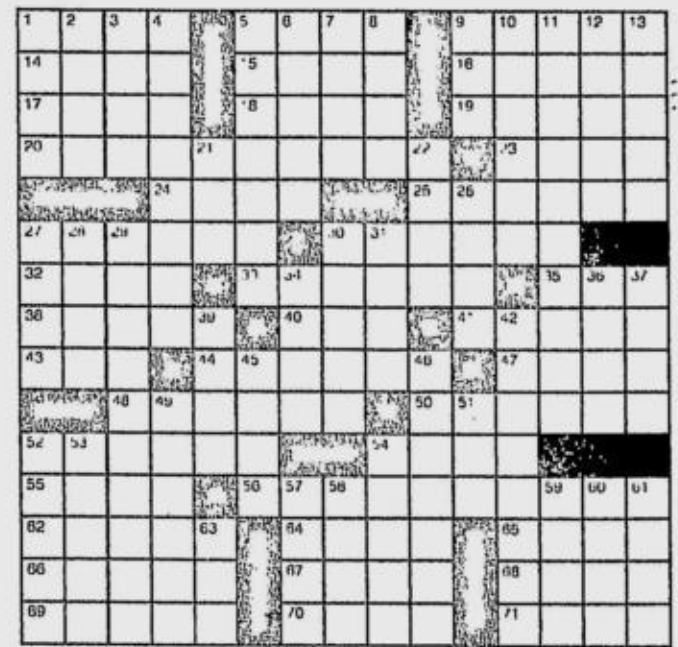
ACROSS

- 1 Memphis record label
- 5 Novelist Hunter
- 9 Deduce
- 14 Den
- 15 Roman fiddler
- 16 Singer Apple
- 17 "M*A*S*H" star
- 18 Enthusiasm
- 19 Move stealthily
- 20 Type of announcer
- 23 "Dies"
- 24 Shady trees
- 25 Topped on eBay
- 27 Future ovum
- 30 Bill or ovum
- 32 Winglike parts
- 33 Vicious usurers
- 35 Watch chain
- 38 Sign of "Johnny Angel"
- 40 H.S. math
- 41 Intense pain
- 42 Half of deus
- 44 City near Durango, CO
- 47 Sports Illustrated founder
- 48 Grand Island
- 50 Trophies and such
- 52 Timber trouble
- 54 Latin 101 verb
- 55 Geom. figure
- 56 1960 hit by The Crests
- 62 Look forward to
- 64 Lot size
- 65 San, CA
- 66 Procession of matadors
- 67 The gamut
- 68 Chip in a chip
- 69 Wild, as influence
- 70 Ms. Anderson
- 71 Nolan or Meg

DOWN

- 1 High-five sound
- 2 Statuesque
- 3 Tururo of "The Sopranos"
- 4 Superman power

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

9/28/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

LOSE	IDEAL	PLAY
AVIS	NORSE	RENE
HAPPINESS	NEAKS	
RLS	SIREN	APPLE
SSN	STASES	
THROUGH	ADDOOR	
SAONE	ELUL	ENDS
ANA	STRIPES	OAT
RANG	ROBE	ETUDE
YOU	DIDNT	KNOW
CURRIE	OOO	
ONEAL	BANTU	ABS
THAT	YOULEFT	OPEN
TIDE	DRAMA	ESAI
APES	ERROR	ROMP

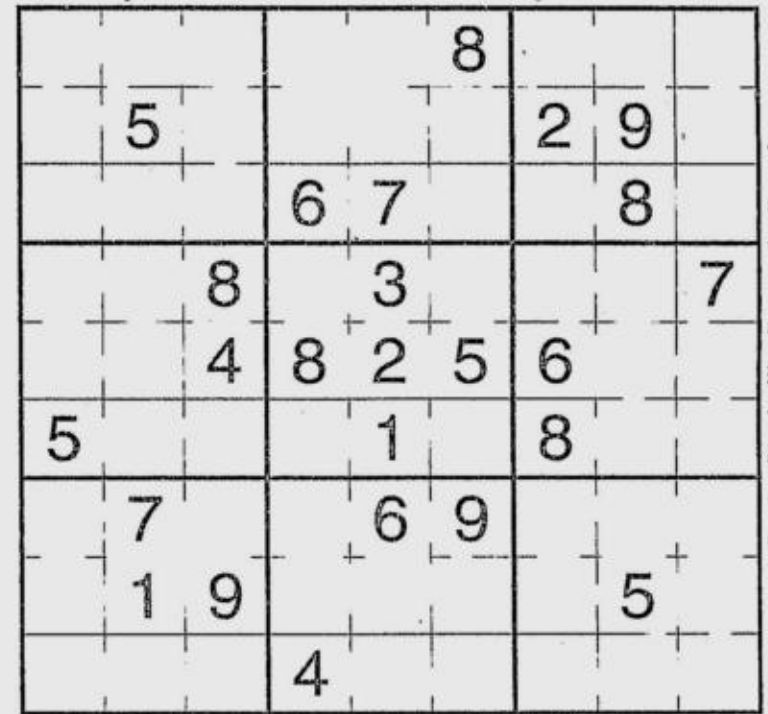
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9/28/07

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	4	1	8	2	5	6	7
5	6	2	4	9	7	1	3	8
1	7	8	6	3	5	2	9	4
6	2	7	3	5	4	9	8	1
8	5	9	7	1	6	3	4	2
4	1	3	9	2	8	7	5	6
7	3	6	2	4	9	8	1	5
9	4	5	8	7	1	6	2	3
2	8	1	5	6	3	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're compassionate, caring and extremely hardworking. (You will always fight for the underdog.) Despite your charming, friendly exterior, you're very shrewd and realistic. You have big plans and very original ideas. From your mid-50s onward, travel and education become extremely appealing. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Brigitte Bardot, actress; Naomi Watts, actress; Mira Sorvino, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For the rest of the year, your domestic situation will be the scene of busy activity, chaos and people arriving and leaving. Be patient with family members.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): For the next six months, you'll be unusually bold and assertive in all your communication with others, but most especially with siblings, neighbors and relatives.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You've decided to do some hard work. This urge to be productive is going to stay with you until next spring. You're on a mission, and you intend to complete it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Mars is normally in each sign for about seven weeks. However, today Mars moves into your sign where it will stay for the rest of the year and into 2008.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might be involved in some secret activities for the next 6-7 months. You're definitely going to play your cards very close to your chest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conflict with friends or groups is highly possible in the months ahead. Alternatively, you might have a lot of energy to work with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're going to become unusually ambitious until around June of next year. You're going to take the bit in your teeth and run with it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're going to start to pour more and more energy into education, training, traveling, publishing and the media. That's because you want to expand your world in some way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): For the rest of the year and even longer, you're going to feel unusually intense and passionate about life, especially your sex life. However, this also will include dealing with shared property and debt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Easy does it. Mars is going to oppose your sign for a number of months ahead—and this is most unusual. Normally it lasts for about seven weeks, not seven months! Be patient with partners!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're certainly going into work mode. For the next year you're going to get organized and more productive in every way. You want efficiency and effectiveness!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Get ready for some fun ahead! Love affairs, romance, vacations, playful times with children, sports and all the arts will shine for you for months ahead! Enjoy!

PUGAD BABOY

BY R.M. JUNIOR



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



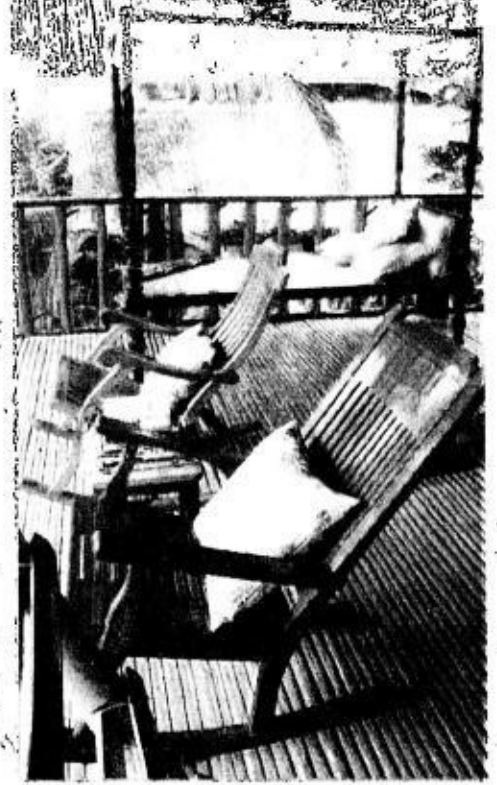


OVERSIZED chess set is from Paete.



HOME BODY

HE INSTALLED recycled capiz windows in the office/studio.



ROCKING chairs are from a GMA 7 executive.

A river runs through it

Kapuso director Louie Ignacio shares this weekend hideaway with his mom



CARNIVAL masks, also from Paete.



LAST Supper masks, created by Paete artist Sor.



BUTTERFLY jar



By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TO GET TO HIS PAGSANJAN rest house, TV director Louie Ignacio has to cross a river.

It's just a quick five minutes by banca, and he is invariably accompanied by his mongrel pet Gloria—which swims enthusiastically alongside the boat.

At the riverbank, he is greeted by a 23-foot image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, sculpted by Paete artist Lino Dulay.

There is a *bahay kubo*—make that a modern nipa hut in royal red and apple green.

"I wanted it built in the traditional manner," Louie explains.

He eschewed hollow blocks and cement and opted for sawali, bamboo and wood. "But I didn't want it to look typical. That's why I painted it in vibrant colors."

The *kubo* reflects his personality, he notes, and houses his passions—from photography to Paete art, from paintings to a Fukuyama & Sons piano.

"We took the baby grand across the river on 15 bancas tied together. About 30 men carried it up the house," he recounts.

The white piano, along with the vacation home, was a surprise birthday gift to his mom, Fe Lagdameo-Ignacio.

"My mom plays the piano. I secretly bought this place and the piano three years ago," Louie says. "We rushed the construction in time for her birthday in October."

When the day came, he told her they were off to celebrate in a Laguna resort. "We blindfolded her during the banca ride," Louie relates. "When we got here, I took off her blindfold and told her the rest house was my present to her. She cried buckets."

Now he spends long weekends here with his mom and three city dogs—"as often as my schedule permits."

As director of the daily chat show "Sis" and the weekly programs "Celebrity Duets," "Mel & Joey" and "SOP," Direk Louie's calendar is booked solid.

The Laguna retreat allows him to get away from it all, he says. "When I'm here, after receiving the overnight ratings for the week, I turn off my cell phone."

Apart from the main house, he built a mini-chapel, a guest house and an office/studio where he paints to his heart's content.

In the works is an exhibit of his work—paintings and photographs—at the Heritage Gallery in SM Megamall. Target is April 5, 2008.

Although angel paintings by Mion from Italy adorn the walls of his living room, Louie is most proud of a clown piece painted and given by comic Joey de Leon.

His own paintings are in the work area—displayed alongside colorful masks and wooden sculptures from Paete, exquisite antique pieces from the Jo-Liza shop and wind chimes given by friends.

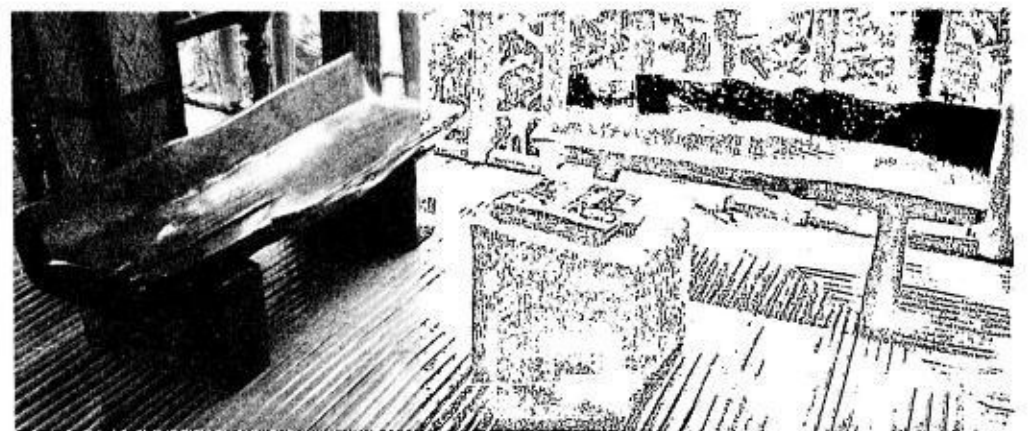
"I plan to retire here," he quips. "I love the idea of living close to nature."

The 1,500 square meter-property is teeming with fruit trees. "I have seven *lanzones* and five *rambutan* trees. I also have coconut, *avocado*, *guyabano* and *langka*. We get all our fruits and vegetables from this garden."

Wait, there's more about this piece of paradise on earth: "You should see it at night; the river is lit up by fireflies."



DIREK surprised mom Fe with the rest house on her birthday three years ago.



WOOD benches and *banig* table from Quezon make a cozy reading nook.



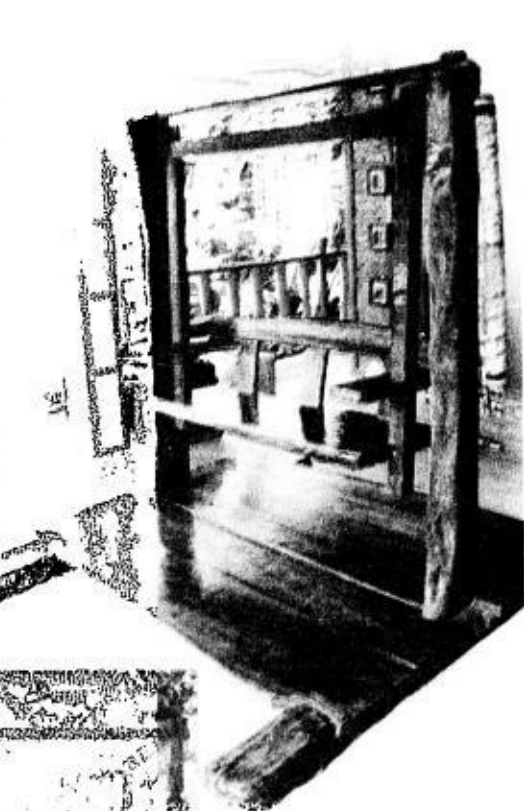
THE 23-FOOT Lady of Guadalupe image



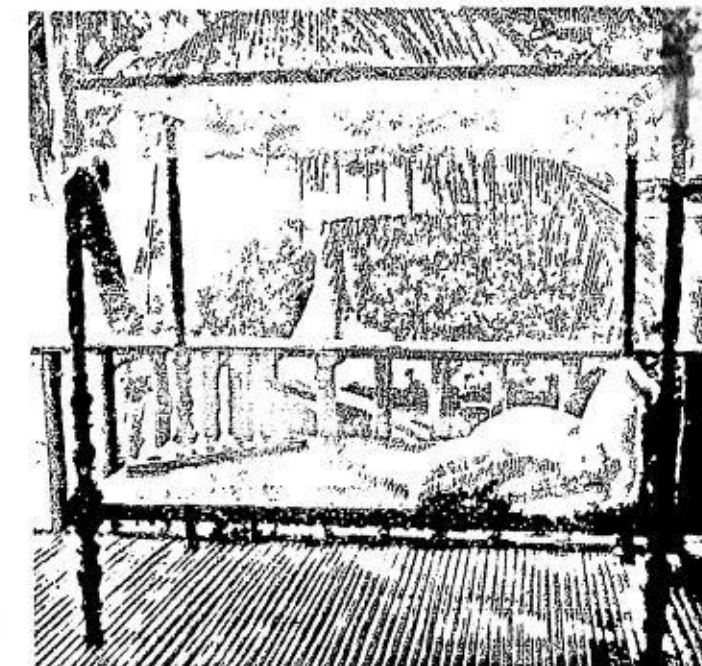
ANGEL figures in the mini-chapel



IN THE living room are *banig* cushions and a mahogany bench from Quezon.



NARRA swing is from Quezon province.



SUNGKA is from Baguio; the four poster bed, from a Manila shop.




COLORFUL fabric lamps from Boracay are all over the 1,500 square meter-property.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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MANILYN Reynes

RODEL ROTONI

A 'happy' 25 years

By Gerry Plaza
Inquirer.net

WITH A FICKLE-MINDED audience and an industry constantly in search of fresh faces, your ordinary '80s stars would have either settled abroad, chosen another profession, left the limelight for the sake of marriage or family, or merely languished in obscurity.

Not Manilyn Reynes.

Twenty-five years after the child singing sensation was plucked out of Cebu and prospered in a career that spanned television, movies and music, Manilyn looks back — a "happy" star.

Credit largely goes to her 14-year marriage

A HAPPY/K3

Ravelos: No exclusive deal with GMA 7

By Marinel R. Cruz

REGINA RAVELO-MARASIGAN, daughter of the late comics writer and publisher Mars Ravelo, has denied that her family has an exclusive deal with GMA 7 for adaptations of her father's works.

Marasigan made the statement after Ravelo's "Lastikman" series debuted on rival network ABS-CBN Monday night. She said she heard that GMA 7 bosses had been "surprised."

"GMA 7 does not have enough stars in their stable," Marasigan told INQUIRER during the "Lastikman" press launch at Teatrino in Greenhills. "Baka mabitin lang ang project."

The TV adaptations of "Darna" and "Captain Barbell," both Ravelo creations, were top-rating Kapuso shows. Angel Locsin played Darna; Richard Gutierrez, Captain Barbell.

"Apart from that, we have no problem with GMA 7," said Marasigan, adding that their next Kapuso project was the serialization of Ravelo's "Dyesebel" next year.

ABS-CBN vice president for Entertainment Deo Endrinal said he thought only of Vhong Navarro as Lastikman when the network bought the serialization rights two years ago. "The great Mars Ravelo would be pleased," Endrinal said.

Pre-production was pushed to August 2006 because Vhong had to finish movie commitments with Star Cinema, movie arm of ABS-CBN. Actual shoot began only last March, Endrinal disclosed.

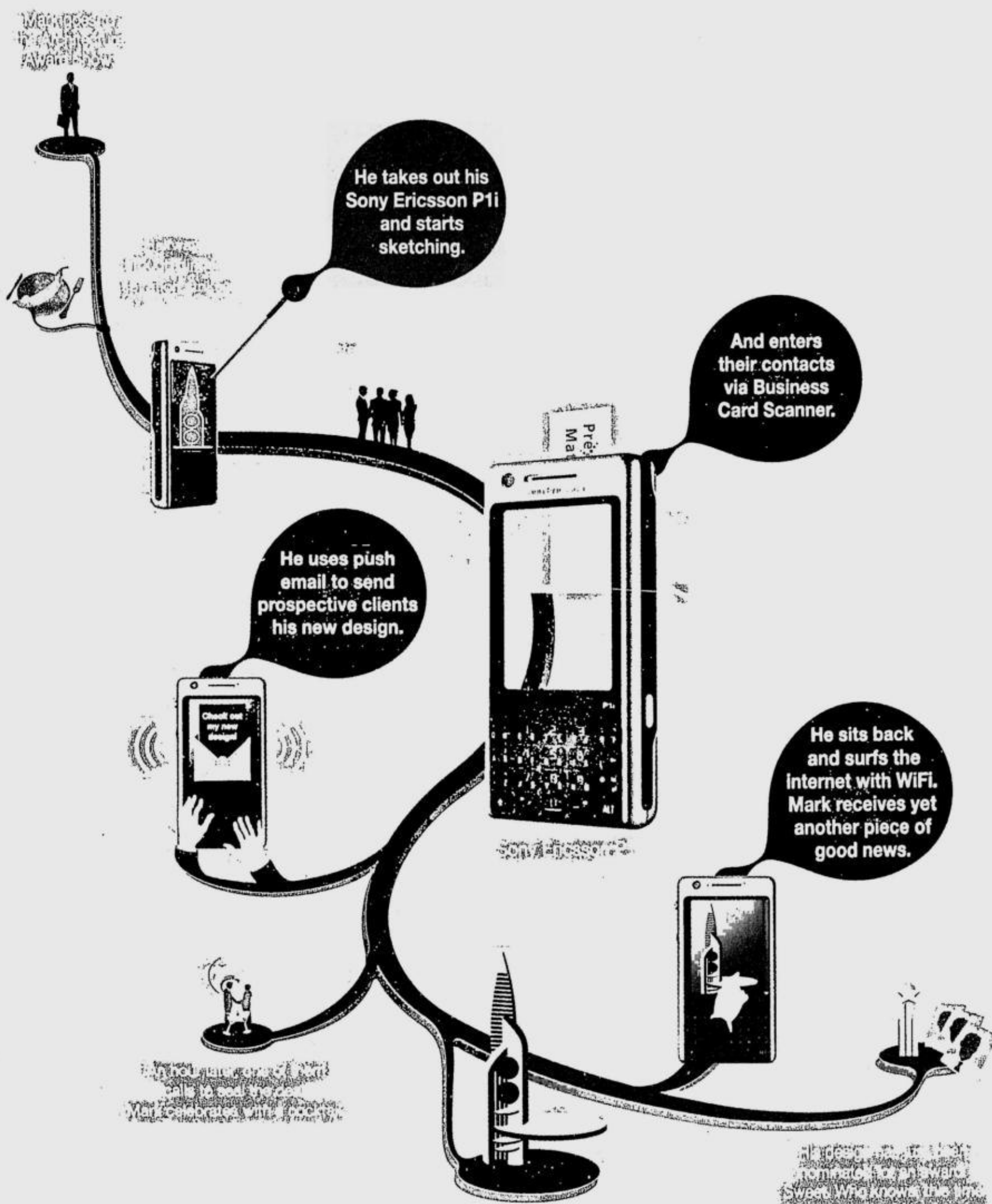
RAVELO/K3

Pinoy guitar icons to mentor enthusiasts for free

PAGE K3

I have freedom to

Sony Ericsson P1i



Sony Ericsson



Battle of the rappers

LONDON—KANYE WEST HAS BEATEN 50 Cent in the British leg of their much-hyped "battle of the rappers" after his new album "Graduation" went straight to number one in its first week. Chicago rapper

West outsold his New York rival's latest release, "Curtis," which got the number two spot, the Official UK Charts Company said on Sunday. The showdown attracted huge media attention around the world after 50 Cent suggested in an

interview that he would scrap his solo career if he lost the race for the top spot. Figures due to be released later on Sunday are expected to show that West also

sold more than 50 Cent, real name Curtis Jackson, in the United States. *Reuters*

KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED... THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO



JASON BIGGS ISLA FISHER WEDDING DAZZLE

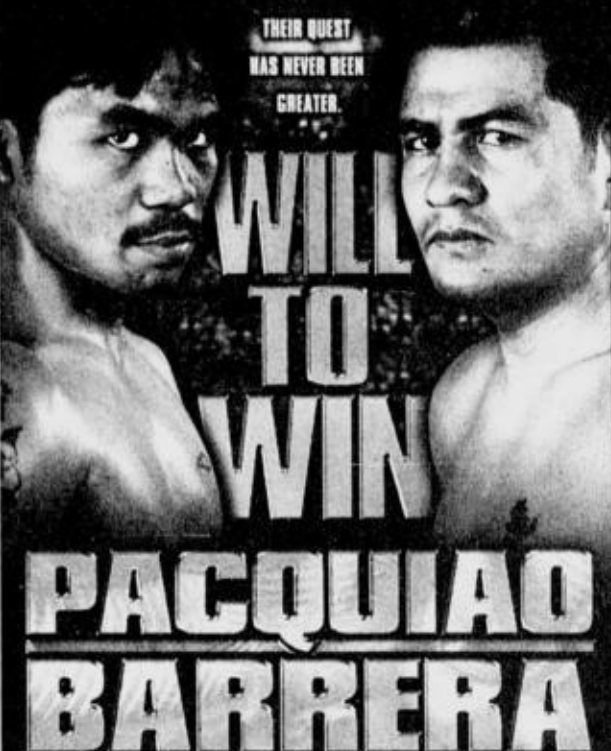
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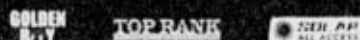
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9. UNDERDOG
10. 1408
11. SHOOT EM' UP
12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BACOR 0461-417-3868

1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. UNDERDOG
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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6. THE HOST
7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8. SHOOT EM' UP

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1. ROGUE ASSASSIN
2. THE BRAVE ONE

3. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4. RUSH HOUR 3
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. SKINWALKERS
SM CITY MARILAO (044) 9332013-17
1. UNDERDOG
2. NANCY DREW
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1. ROGUE ASSASSIN
2. UNDERDOG
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. DISTURBIA
5. THE LAST LEGION
6. RESIDENT EVIL
SM CITY CAGAYAN (088) 859-2884
1. THE LAST LEGION
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. LOSS 117
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

METRO MANILA

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. THE BRAVE ONE
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6. NO RESERVATION
7. THE HOST
8. 1408
9. RESIDENT EVIL
10. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11. SHOOT EM' UP
12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1. THE HOST
2. UNDERDOG
3. A LOVE STORY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. THE BRAVE ONE
6. SHOOT EM' UP
7. RESIDENT EVIL
8. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10. 1408
11. NO RESERVATION
12. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. NO RESERVATION
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. THE BRAVE ONE
7. SHOOT EM' UP
8. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9. 1408
10. UNDERDOG

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. 1408
5. NO RESERVATION
6. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1. DISTURBIA
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. SKINWALKERS
4. DAYWATCH

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045) 9637681-85
1. SKINWALKERS
2. THE BRAVE ONE
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. UNDERDOG
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1. DISTURBIA
2. DAYWATCH
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1. UNDERDOG
2. RESERVED
3. SKINWALKERS
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5. THE BRAVE ONE
6. ROGUE ASSASSIN
7. RESERVED
8. THE LAST LEGION

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. NO RESERVATION
6. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7. UNDERDOG
8. SHOOT EM' UP
9. A LOVE STORY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. SHOOT EM' UP
3. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. NO RESERVATION
6. RESIDENT EVIL
7. 1408
8. RUSH HOUR 3
9. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10. DISTURBIA
11. UNDERDOG
12. THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046) 4322201-04

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. DISTURBIA/RESIDENT EVIL
3. THE BRAVE ONE
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. ROGUE ASSASSIN
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2. DISTURBIA
3. SKINWALKERS
4. NANCY DREW

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 6197838-39

1. NANCY DREW
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. BLIND DATING
4. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTRAL MOLINO (046) 474-3160

1. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2. RESIDENT EVIL
3. NO RESERVATION
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049) 5349811

1. THE LAST LEGION/NANCY DREW
2. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY CEBU (032) 231-3876

1. THE BRAVE ONE
2. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. THE HOST
7. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8. THE LAST LEGION
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I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	NO RESERVATION

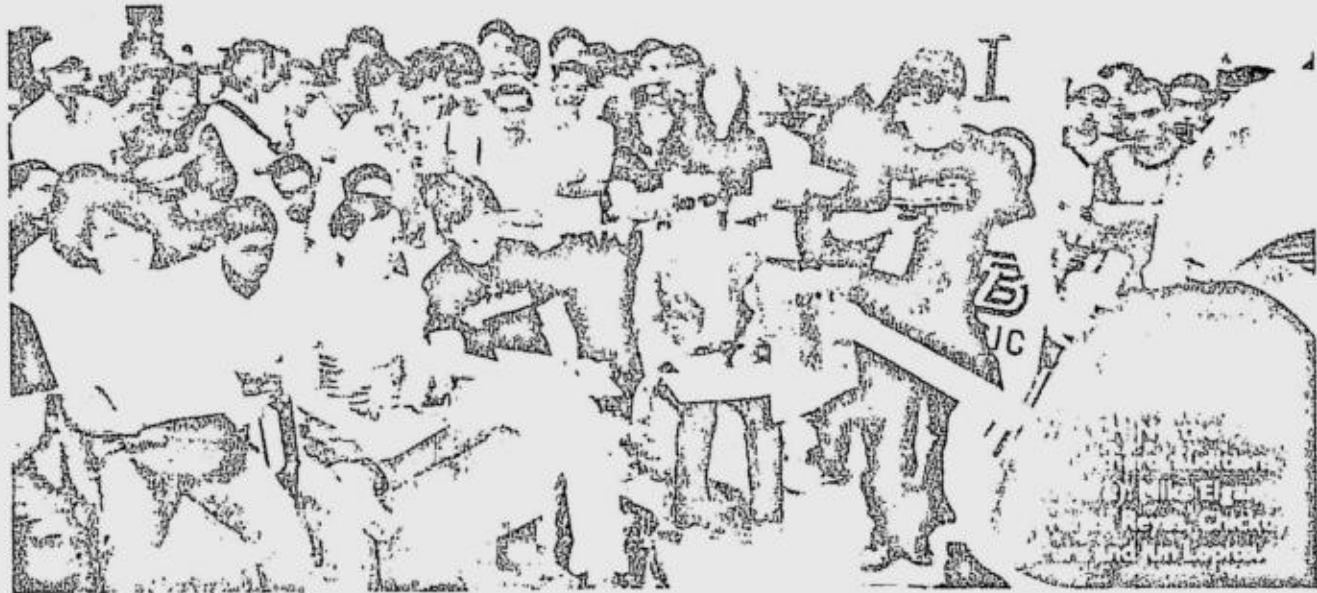
ALI MALL CINEMAS

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SHOOT EM UP 12:40, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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Guitar heroes play mentors

By Pocholo Concepcion

FOUR HUNDRED BUDDING MUSICIANS turned up at the activity center of Trinoma Mall in Quezon City recently to audition for "Musikhero" ("music hero"), a three-day workshop which starts on Monday in Baguio City.

Some of the country's top guitarists, bassists and drummers are serving as mentors at the music camp. They include former band mates Jun Lopito and Chickoy Pura of the Jerks; The Dawn's Francis Reyes, Buddy Zabala and JB Leonor; Rivermaya's Mike Elgar, Japs Sergio and Mark Escueta; Bamboo's Ira Cruz and Vic Mercado; Freestyle's Rommel de la Cruz; Razorback's Louie Talan; and Side As Ernie Severino.

Only 75 of those who auditioned will be picked. By the end of the workshop, the most promising four will comprise a group to represent the Philippines at the London International Music Festival in April 2008. They also become official endorsers of instrument brands carried by JB Music, which organized "Musikhero."

Lucky kids

At the auditions, most of the mentors noted that today's kids were lucky because they had access to the Internet, which offers a lot of instructional videos from the world's top musicians.

Louie Talan, bassist of Razorback, Pinikpikan and Spy and also a record producer and engineer at his own Wombworks Studio, remembers learning to play the guitar by reading Jingle

Chordbook magazine. Then he honed his skills by jamming with friends.

Francis Reyes, lead guitarist of The Dawn and deejay at NU 107, was also self-taught and researched a lot from the school library in La Salle. "I've learned that the measure of a guitarist is his sense of rhythm," he shared. "I noticed that kids today, nagmamadaling mag-adlib. But the guitar solo is just icing [on the cake]."

For Jerico Salonga Fernando, whose parents established the JB Music chain 30 years ago, the whole shebang is a worthwhile investment. He said he'd like the kids to be proponents of OPM, if not the next generation of professionals who'll get to travel the world as musicians. "For now," Fernando said, "I want them to experience how it feels to play with rock stars."

A 'happy' 25 years

From page K1

to former actor Aljon Jimenez, with whom she has two sons, Kyle and Kirk.

"Kung ano ang nasa loob mo, nag-reflex yon on how you deal with people... how you weigh things. Since I am happy in my marriage, ang pakikitungo ko sa mga tao and the way I handle things, maganda," Manilyn told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

During the interview, Manilyn sat beside her husband. Aljon recounted: "Nu'ng kinasal kami, sa peak siya ng ca-

reer niya. Nagkaroon kami ng anak so nawala siya sa limelight, nag-focus siya sa family. That's one thing good about her. She set priorities."

To celebrate her 25th year in the biz, Manilyn will take the concert stage in "Manilyn Live@25" on Oct. 27 at the Aliw Theater. The show will feature her former male co-stars Janno Gibbs, Ogie Alcasid and Keempee de Leon.

The show is also her reunion of sorts with Al Quinn, director of "Manilyn

Live!" on TV in the early '90s. Also involved in the project is Tats Faustino, musical director for most of Manilyn's previous concerts and TV shows. Aljon is co-producing the concert.

She is currently a regular on GMA-7's top-rating soap "Marimar."

She has a few more wishes as an actress: serious roles, for one. "People still think of me as the kid from Cebu na nag-artista. Gusto kong mag-graduate na sa mga pa-cute na roles."

Ravelos: No exclusive deal...

From page K1

Vhong is the fourth actor to play Lastikman. Von Serna wore the black-and-green costume in 1958, Vic Sotto in 2003, and Mark Bautista in 2004.

Ravelo is also the creator of drama narratives "Roberta," "Trudis Liit," "Maruja" and "Basahang Ginto."

He also created "Bondying" and "Tafica Palayfay" and wrote "Wanted Perfect Mother." "Lastikman" co-stars Dawn Zulueta, Cherie Gil, Iya Villania, Tonton Gutierrez, Archie Alemania, Jairus Aquino and Jayson Abalos, among others. The series is directed by Chito Roño, Jerome Pobocan and Tots Mariscal.

NOW SHOWING

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"A PLEASURE."

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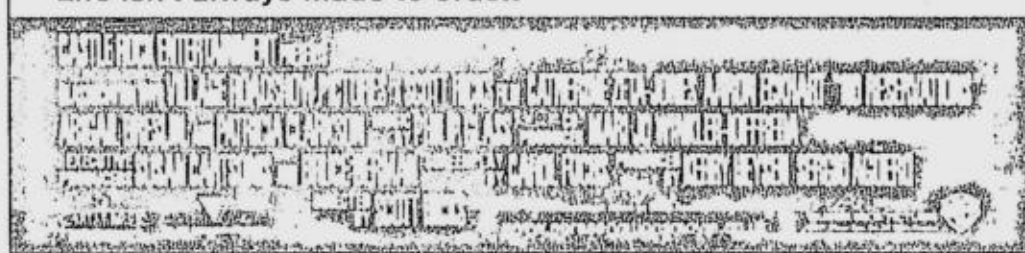
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Catherine Zeta-Jones Aaron Eckhart

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AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
GREENBELT	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 SHOOT 'EM UP
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 NO RESERVATIONS	4 JOSHUA
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 JOSHUA	4 SHOOT 'EM UP
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 ROGUE ASSASIN
TRINOMA	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 DAYWATCH
AYALA MALL	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 ROGUE ASSASIN	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 NO RESERVATIONS
TRINOMA	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 ROGUE ASSASIN	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 NO RESERVATIONS
AYALA MALL	5 SHOOT 'EM UP	6 THE BRAVE ONE	7 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala

GLORIETTA	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 26, 2007 at the Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Town Cheers Competition September 22 & 23, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Toyota Showcase September 28 to 30, 2007; at the Activity Center
AYALA MALL	Restoration Philippines: Maria Lorena's Labour's Lost September 28 to 30, 2007
AYALA MALL	Restoration Philippines: Maria Lorena's Labour's Lost September 28 to 30, 2007
TriNoma	Mother's Day Exhibit September 16 to 30; 10 am to 9 pm; Restoration Area, Level 3

EXCLUSIVE NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

A superbly crafted psychological thriller.
— Dave Karger, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

Brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockian flair.
— David Byrne, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga

joshua

Not all children are innocent.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Cash American Idol

finalist Elliott Yamin
in a live concert at the
Ayala Malls!

TriNoma Activity Center September 21 7:00pm	Glorietta Activity Center September 22 7:00pm	Market! Market! Activity Center September 23 6:00pm
Ayala Center Cebu On Stage September 26 8:00pm	Alabang Town Center Activity Center September 28 8:30pm	

ABC FOX PAOSTUDIO

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX <small>1000 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 1000, Harbor City, Manila 10156</small> <small>Telephone: 812-2777/812-2778</small>		Masagana CINEMA <small>(Pasig) tel 833 3290 / 833 3274</small>	
1 10:00	NO RESERVATIONS	1	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 10:45	RESIDENT EVIL 3	2	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 1:45	CHUCK & LARRY	3	NO RESERVATIONS
4 3:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU		
PREMIERE			
01:00	THE BRAVE ONE	Jade Cinema <small>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-3001 to 03</small>	
1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 11:45	SKINWALKERS	2 11:45	SKINWALKERS
3 12:45	THE BRAVE ONE	3 12:45	THE BRAVE ONE
4 1:45	CHUCK & LARRY	4 1:45	CHUCK & LARRY
		Centre Plaza Cinema <small>(Bulacan, Bataan) tel (047) 237-7007</small>	
1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 11:45	EVAN ALLMIGHTY	2 11:45	EVAN ALLMIGHTY
		Eastwood CINEMAS <small>(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Bataan City, tel 887-8783 or 72</small>	
1 10:45	CHUCK & LARRY	1 10:45	CHUCK & LARRY
2 11:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	2 11:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 12:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	3 12:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 1:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 1:45	NO RESERVATIONS
5 2:45	PLEASE CALL	5 2:45	PLEASE CALL
		metropolis star <small>www.clicknroll.com.ph</small> <small>(Alabang) tel 8904285, 8432994</small>	
1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 11:45	ROGUE ASSASSIN	2 11:45	ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 12:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	3 12:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 1:45	NO RESERVATIONS	4 1:45	NO RESERVATIONS
		THEATRES <small>1 For All Theatres</small>	
1 10:45	SKINWALKERS	1 10:45	SKINWALKERS
2 11:45	NANCY DREW	2 11:45	NANCY DREW
3 12:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 12:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
		PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIX <small>Home Mall Lucena Tel 0432-888-8271</small>	
1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 11:45	DAY WATCH	2 11:45	DAY WATCH
3 12:45	RESERVED	3 12:45	RESERVED
4 1:45	RESERVED	4 1:45	RESERVED
		Filinvest <small>(Muntinlupa) tel 850-3571 or 72</small>	
1 10:45	CHUCK & LARRY	1 10:45	CHUCK & LARRY
2 11:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	2 11:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 12:45	NO RESERVATIONS	3 12:45	NO RESERVATIONS
4 1:45	UNDERDOG	4 1:45	UNDERDOG
5 2:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	5 2:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
6 3:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	6 3:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
7 4:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	7 4:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 5:45	SHOOT THEM UP	8 5:45	SHOOT THEM UP
9 6:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	9 6:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 7:45	ROGUE ASSASSIN	10 7:45	ROGUE ASSASSIN
		Blue Wave <small>Sarasang Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nika, Marikina City tel. 9341927</small>	
1 10:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	1 10:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 11:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 11:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 12:45	NO RESERVATIONS	3 12:45	NO RESERVATIONS
4 1:45	RESERVED	4 1:45	RESERVED
		SUPER CINERAMA <small>Isetan Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228</small>	
1 10:45	RESERVED	1 10:45	RESERVED
2 11:45	RESERVED	2 11:45	RESERVED
3 12:45	RESERVED	3 12:45	RESERVED
4 1:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 1:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 2:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3	5 2:45	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
		MARKETPLACE <small>Mandaluyong tel 533-3851 / 533-3856</small>	
1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 10:45	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 11:45	PLEASE CALL	2 11:45	PLEASE CALL
3 12:45	1408	3 12:45	1408
4 1:45	UNDERDOG	4 1:45	UNDERDOG
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE			



DIRECTOR David Cronenberg jokes that Viggo Mortensen, R, and Vincent Cassel are the "hot couple" in "Eastern Promises," a drama thriller about the Russian mob in London.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
 ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

SHOOT 'EM UP R13
 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13
 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13
 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU G
 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

NO RESERVATIONS G
 1:35, 3:55, 6:15

NO RESERVATIONS G
 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)

NOW SHOWING

Viggo shows everything in this nude fight scene

LOS ANGELES—DAVID CRONENBERG'S "Eastern Promises" is earning critical raves but what's stirring buzz about the film is Viggo Mortensen's nude fight scene which lasts for at least four minutes.

In a London Turkish bath, the completely naked actor—Aragorn in "The Lord of the Rings"—lets it all hang loose, so to speak, as he fights two fully-clothed assassins. Like the rest of the film, the scene is breathtakingly realistic. Viggo and David, reunited after their triumphant team-up in "A History of Violence," are successful again in this drama-thriller about the Russian mob in the UK capital.

Viggo plays Nikolai, a driver for this mafia family headed by Semyon (Armin Mueller-Star) who masks his criminal activities by acting as the genial owner of a restaurant. Semyon's gay son, Kirill (Vincent Cassel), is the mob clan's enforcer who hides his sexuality in this tough environment but is attracted to Nikolai. Naomi Watts plays a midwife whose involvement with a teenage prostitute who dies while giving birth to a baby leads her to cross paths with Nikolai and the crime family.

Viggo, David and Naomi talked to us in Toronto about the film, which won the Audience Award as the top movie in the recent film festival in Ontario's capital.

David, the silver-haired creator of graphically violent but superb films, explained how Viggo's nude scene against knife-wielding attackers in a steam bath came about. "It was a very simple conversation," said the filmmaker. "We were working out the fight choreography. Viggo said, 'It's obvious that I am going to have to do this naked.' I said, 'Great,' and that was it... because if he had the towel wrapped around him for the whole fight, that would be silly and not realistic."

Grueling work

David added, "If I had to worry about showing or not showing things, that would restrict the way we could flow the scene. I wanted it to be very grueling, hard work and physical. I wanted it to be very realistic in terms of the physiology."

Another provocative scene shows Viggo's Nikolai having sex (with an actress playing one of the women forced by the mob into prostitution) in a brothel while Vince's Kirill watches intently. David quipped, "We were joking all the time. We said Vincent and Viggo are the hot couple in this movie, really (laughter)."

The director explained, "We all understood the undertones. We knew that Kirill (Vincent) is in love with Nikolai (Viggo) and that he can't admit that he's gay because in that environment, that's like a death sentence. But Viggo's character knows this so he flirts with him and manipulates him. There was that kind of humor going on all the time."

Naomi, for her part, told us: "Viggo and Vincent are such powerful actors. They were so connected to their characters. In their scenes together, they had great chemistry." She joked, "I'm glad they fell in love on the set (laughter)."

Viggo, who is as laid-back and soft-spoken as his director, said his decision to slug it out *au naturel* and do other challenging scenes in "Eastern Promises" was all based on trust.

Akward and vulnerable

"Trust is the most important thing," he said. "Without trust, you can't relax and you don't feel secure about exploring as an actor. I knew that bathroom scene would be a little more difficult to do than other scenes and that it would be physically painful (laughter) but I am very happy to be in David's hands."

If violence does not permeate Viggo's recent films, it would not be a topic at all to discuss with him. A quiet, calm man, Viggo has published books and CDs of his poems and photos on Perceval Press, which he founded. He paints and enjoys poetry readings.

At one point in our press con, he said, "I'm interested in collecting as much experience as I can because I don't know what happens afterward."

Animal lover

After the interview, he gave away copies of a

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

CD titled "Time Waits for Everyone," with his name underneath. Back home, we played the CD, expecting to hear Viggo reciting his poems. But surprise, surprise, it's him playing his compositions in a classical vein on a grand piano.

A lover of animals, especially horses, Viggo is given to talking about topics like crows. He is also fond of them. He ties their presence to good or bad luck, depending on how many they are or how they come to him. He narrated how the wins of San Lorenzo, his favorite football team in Argentina (where he grew up), coincided with the appearance of wounded crows in front of his LA home. And of how he gently picked up these birds and brought them to the vet.

'Demon researcher'

Described as "demon researcher" by David for his intense preparation for a role, Viggo met some ex-Russian criminals and read books, including one on symbolic tattoos, to portray Nikolai. This book, "Russian Criminal Tattoo," came in handy for a scene in which Viggo is inducted into the criminal brotherhood and tattooed (it's another scene not meant for the faint of heart).

As a result of his research, this man who is fluent in at least four languages learned to speak his lines not just in a broad Russian accent but one that is very specific to the region where his character supposedly comes from. "I didn't have to go to Russia (to do research on my character)," he said but he did fly to Moscow and went to remote places.

Asked how women influence his life, Viggo, who turns 49 next month, laughed and declared, "I'm my mother's son which should say enough, I guess." He is divorced from Exene Cervenka, founder of the punk band X, with whom he has a son, Henry, who is now a teenager.

Different high

As to what he looks for in a woman (ladies, we finally get to the most important topic), the man considered as "the thinking woman's sex symbol" said, "Somebody who's straightforward with me. And I like to hear what they have to say. I don't think you ever really get to know anyone completely. So there's always going to be a leap of faith in any relationship, whether it's family or an intimate relationship. That's where trust comes in. You just have to assume that what you don't know isn't going to hurt you (laughter). And that you respect the person enough to allow them to have their mystery and they respect you enough to keep yours."

On the different high he gets from movies and poetry readings, Viggo explained, "In the case of movies... you really don't know what the reaction of the people will be. It has another life. With a poem that you wrote and read publicly, there's something that happens in the air between you and the people, just as there is something between the screen and the audience that provokes questions that you don't expect. The movie is done but with poems, I've often changed them — shortened them, based on the feeling I had while reading them."

Will we ever see him in a comedy someday? With a smile, he replied, "There's a lot of money involved in making a movie. With the parts that they normally give to Will Ferrell, I don't think they go, 'Well, if we can't get Will, we have to call Viggo (laughter).' It would be fun to try sometime, I guess."

With the interview done, he got something from his bag. It was the banner flag of his beloved San Lorenzo team. He draped himself with the flag as he posed for pictures.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Iligan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), invites the following:
I. FOR CIVIL WORKS - Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
2 CL - San Miguel Elem. School	Ramon, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Mababayo Elem. School	Echague, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Cairacan Elem. School	Sto. Tomas, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Lupugan Elem. School	Iligan, Isabela	P 854,000.00	P 1,000.00
2 CL - Dona Josefa E.M.H.S.	Cordon, Isabela	P 813,000.00	P 1,000.00
Repair: Tumauri Nat'l H.S. - 2 Buildings	Tumauri, Isabela	P 292,000.00	P 500.00
Completion of 2 CL Alibagu Elem. School	Alibagu, Iligan, Isabela	P 260,000.00	P 500.00

BRIDGES

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
DIETBAN BRIDGE	Angadanan, Isabela	P 6,540,000.00	P 6,500.00
BANNAGAO BRIDGE	Aurora, Isabela	P 7,641,000.00	P 7,600.00
VILLA LUZ BRIDGE	Dallin Altano, Isabela	P 400,000.00	P 500.00
BACNOR BRIDGE	Burgos, Isabela	P 180,000.00	P 500.00
SIFU BOX CULVERT	Iligan, Isabela	P 425,000.00	P 500.00
CAB. 14-16 BOX CULVERT	Iligan, Isabela	P 425,000.00	P 500.00

OTHER STRUCTURES

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
DSWD WOMEN'S QUARTER (completion)	Capitol Compound, Alibagu, Iligan, Isabela	P 769,000.00	P 1,000.00
REPAIR OF ISABELA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF BUILDING	Capitol Compound, Alibagu, Iligan, Isabela	P 723,000.00	P 1,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	October 02-05, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 02-05, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility requirements	October 08-10, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 12, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 15-19, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 23, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	On or before 10:00 AM, November 5, 2007 at the Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Iligan, Isabela

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Iligan, Isabela, upon their submission of LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) per project to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of appropriate BIDDING FEE as mentioned above to the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

II. FOR GOODS - Distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers in the pre-eligibility activity and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Availability of Bid Documents	October 3-5, 2007, 8 AM to 5 PM at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
Pre-Bid Conference	October 9, 2007 at 10 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	October 26, 2007 at 10:00 AM, BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
Opening of Bids	October 26, 2007 at 10:30 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela
Approved Budget Contract	P 8,051,555.00

Complete set of bid proposals/forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable fee of EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00) at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in this undertaking nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-Sept. 28, 2007)

CAMARINES SUR III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(CASURECO III)
San Isidro, Iriga City
Fax No. (054) 299-2382

INVITATION TO BID

The Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III) per requisite of Coop policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards invites all interested Bidders/Suppliers to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and to bid for the Supply of:

- 2,000 units of KWH METER (VAT inclusive)
CLs 2.0, 2W, 240 Volts, TA: 10(30) Electromechanical
- ELECTRICAL MATERIALS:
1) Duplex wire # 6 10,000 mtrs.
2) Duplex Wire # 2 2,000 mtrs.
3) TW Wire # 8 8 rolls
- Plastic Seal (Security seal) 10,000 pcs.
- Plastic box 10,000 pcs.
- Wood Screw 1/2x8 10 gross (box)

Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 PM on October 11, 2007 and no documents shall be accepted thereafter. Only those who will be qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

BIDDING will be conducted at 1:00 pm on October 12, 2007. Pre-bid conference will be on October 11, 2007 @ 1:00 pm coop function room. Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE on or before 1:00 PM of October 12, 2007. Five (5%) percent Bidders bond is required as a matter of policy, non-refundable bidding fee of P3,000.00.

CASURECO III reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to CASURECO III.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN A. ORCINE
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. PEDRO M. PRESTADO, JR.
General Manager

(PDI - September 24 & 28, 2007)

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (IAETB)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC)

SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, LABOR, AND MATERIALS FOR:
LOT A - REHABILITATION OF AHU S-31B, UPGRADING OF SUPPLY AND RETURN DUCT AIR FLOW OF AHU S-31A and B;
and LOT B - REPLACEMENT OF AHU S-27 SERVING MEETING ROOMS 2 AND 3

The PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC), through its Approved Budget for CY 2007 intend to apply the sums of: a) ONE MILLION SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,075,000.00); and b) ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,650,000.00). VAT inclusive, being the Approved Budgets for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the above-mentioned procurement. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Prospective bidders are required to download the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid from Phil-GEPS website. The BAC will issue hard copies of the bid documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the respective bidder or his authorized representative.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat of the PICC and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below anytime during office hours from October 1 to 10, 2007.

The PICC-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cafeteria area, 2nd floor, Secretariat Building, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m., October 23, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of (cash/Manager's/Cashier's check) in the amount equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC or if surety bond, in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC. In case of partial bids, bid security shall be as follows:

For Lot A:
P10,750.00 if paid in cash, Manager's or Cashier's check; or P26,875.00 if posted by way of a surety bond issued by GSIS or any of the PICC accredited insurance companies, callable upon demand;

For Lot B:
P16,500.00 if paid in cash, manager's/Cashier's check; or P41,250.00 if posted by way of a surety bond issued by GSIS or any of the PICC accredited insurance companies, callable upon demand.

Bid opening shall be on October 23, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., at the Cafeteria area, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
(02) 551-8230 or 551-7920 loc. 7855

(Sgd.) VICTORIA C. BERCILES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 28, 2007)

KAMAYAN REALTY CORPORATION INVITATION TO BID

The Kamayan Realty Corporation (KRC), a subsidiary of the National Development Company (NDC), offers for sale the following parcels of land in Cebu and on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis:

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
METRO MANILA 1. Jose Abad Santos Ave., Tondo, Manila	551.2 sq. meters (TCT No. 118795) former gasoline station	P 15,433,600
BICOL 2. Lakandula Drive, Gogon, Legazpi City	11,996 sq. meters (TCT Nos. 15337, 15338 & 15339) former gasoline station and depot	P 53,742,080
CEBU 3. M. J. Cuenca Ave., Brgy. Mabolo, Cebu City	9,767 sq. meters (TCT No. 63347) former warehouse	P 44,908,640
CAGAYAN DE ORO 4. Corrales St. Extension, Macabalan District, Cagayan de Oro City	2,778 sq. meters (TCT No. 19348) former office and depot	P 31,113,600

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 from October 1-5, 2007 at:

The Secretariat Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (632) 840-1336, 840-4638 loc. 213 & 265

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building.

Bids shall be accompanied by 10% bid bond and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of October 26, 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
CODE: Location of Property

The opening of bids is scheduled on October 26, 2007 at 2:01 PM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building, in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s).

KRC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids which are deemed advantageous to KRC.

(Sgd.) SATURNINO H. MEJIA
Chairman BAAC

(PDI-Sept. 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

OPEN HOUSE DAILY

30% D/P
to easy installment
7% interest rate to 2 years
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P6,606/mo*
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(0920)950-4626*(0915)317-5553*(0920)911-0002
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IT Specialists

The USAID-funded MCA-PTP Technical Assistance Project, has an urgent need for six (6) Production Support Assistants to assist in the Nationwide Rollout of Computerized Systems Project implemented by the BIR. The successful candidates will be needed for an initial period of at least six months. The Production Support Assistants (PSA) should have the following qualifications:

- extensive experience with Oracle version 7.3 up and Oracle Report Writer;
- strong computer operations background;
- skilled in the use of SQL + and SQL Forms;
- functional knowledge of the tax business area is desired, but not essential.

The PSA shall perform the following functions:

- assist the BIR's Project Team in implementing the Integrated Tax System (ITS) Rollouts;
- assist the BIR Data Center in maintaining the existing ITS applications and in responding to requests for assistance from the ITS users of newly-connected sites;
- do the necessary program fixes in response to help desk calls;
- submit periodic reports to BIR and the MCA-PTP TAP.

Interested applicants should submit their most recent CV to Mr. Jene Aliwalas, Component Manager RATE, Millennium Challenge Account - Philippines Threshold Program Technical Assistance Project at mpastrana@msi-mca.com or at Room 2302, 23FI Sedenor, corner Valero Sts. Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Tel. Nos. 887-7412; 887-7467 to 69.

Read Job Market every Sunday.

FOR RENT WAREHOUSE

#5 Kalantiao St.
cor. J.P. Rizal cor. 20th Ave., Cubao, Q.C.
LA-869 sq.m.,
FA 1,500 sq.m.
Pls. call Amy or Phillip
Tel. No. 9839551 to 56
CP#0917-8272641
CP#0917-8115555

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Hermes, and several watches

09178884040
7269687

email: worldwatcher@gmail.com

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DOLE Region IV	B6

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(Budget is 180k fully furnish)
House @ Dasma. Vill.
(Loc. Makati/Budget 200k)
Please contact:
09157715800 / 09273172331

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that C/O RONALD A. DABLEO is no longer connected with SENATOR CREWING (MANILA), INC. effective Oct. 31, 2006. Any transactions entered into after the said date will not be honored by Senator Crewing (Manila), Inc.

(PDI-Sept. 28, 2007)

Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Pancake House, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 370 covering 1,000,000 shares in the name of Lourdes Beatrice L. Benitez. Should no one contest on or before Sept. 28, 2007, a new stock certificate will be issued to replace the lost certificate.

(PDI-Sept. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE

Area : 1,257.50 square meters
(A - 628.75; B - 628.75)
Location : 2nd Street corner Tacoma Port Area, Manila

FEATURES:

Flood free, 35 feet high cemented floor
24-hour security, no center posts
With front and back doors (A & B)
Parking available, no truck ban
Perimeter fence and lights
Berthing space available
Between MICT and South Harbor

PLEASE CALL CYNTHIA DURING
OFFICE HOURS AT TEL. NOS.
527-2683; 301-1197



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF 77 PROVINCES AND 115 CITIES
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

PROVINCES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses								Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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CITIES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses								Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses											
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank				Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income	
						1	2		1	2		1	2		1								2	1		2			
National Capital Region		107,199,199	28,551,165	78,648,033	42,554,046			30,722,620			11,831,426		28																
Calocan	1	6,581,744	2,986,284	3,595,460	2,423,232	6	5	1,687,845	7	6	785,387	5	5	32															
Las Pias	1	2,549,410	351,701	2,197,709	1,273,592	15	13	1,027,282	14	12	190,310	23	11	16															
Makati	1	24,078,064	4,887,831	19,190,233	7,691,140	3	3	4,352,515	3	3	3,338,625	1	1	43															
Malabon	1	492,979	298,644	194,335	657,125	31</																							



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
NCR, REGION 1, CAR AND REGION 2
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses										Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses												
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income				Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income					
						1	2		1	2		1	2	1			2		1	2		1	2		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
NCR		3,132,898	1,105,607	2,024,290	1,170,333			944,667			225,667			19	Apayao		536,927	128,366	408,562	356,897			273,508			83,389			23			
Navotas	1	830,278	321,542	517,736	389,916	2		324,548	2		65,368	2		17	Calanasan	1	152,065	49,668	102,397	87,362	4	1	66,179	5	1	21,183	4	1	24			
Pateros	1	187,509	66,773	120,737	93,852	3		89,701	3		4,151	3		4	Conner	3	68,888	6,395	62,502	52,650	11	4	39,982	16	4	12,668	12	4	24			
San Juan	1	2,106,109	720,292	1,385,817	686,565	1		530,418	1		156,148	1		23	Flora	4	49,273	27,088	22,185	38,065	20	5	34,593	20	5	3,472	51	7	9			
REGION 1		9,123,880	2,430,698	6,693,181	5,557,289			4,462,278			1,095,011			20	Kabugao	2	83,827	25,352	58,475	61,399	9	2	41,962	12	2	19,437	5	2	32			
Ilocos Norte		1,420,436	239,343	1,181,093	932,247			746,738			185,509			20	Luna	3	103,676	11,971	91,705	57,546	10	3	40,891	14	3	16,555	8	3	29			
Adams	5	36,084	3,512	32,572	21,081	112	20	17,341	107	20	3,740	105	19	18	Pudtol	4	53,718	3,629	50,088	30,405	37	6	25,583	36	6	4,913	37	6	16			
Bacarra	3	52,291	29,812	22,479	48,472	41	5	39,572	40	5	8,900	49	10	18	Sta. Marcela	5	25,471	4,262	21,208	29,380	40	7	24,318	39	7	5,062	33	5	17			
Badoc	3	102,340	17,138	85,201	46,520	45	6	36,120	45	6	10,409	37	6	22	Benguet		893,766	272,599	620,867	676,510			509,749			166,760			25			
Bangul	4	68,335	7,752	60,583	40,791	85	13	31,551	61	12	9,241	47	9	23	Atok	4	31,592	10,525	21,067	32,728	31	9	28,028	30	9	4,700	39	9	14			
Banna	4	22,509	1,236	21,273	32,133	84	16	27,565	81	16	4,568	96	16	14	Bakun	4	30,816	18,413	12,403	47,611	17	5	41,777	13	5	5,834	29	6	12			
Batac	1	230,052	21,599	217,453	108,074	1	1	82,564	5	1	26,410	1	1	24	Bokod	4	30,001	10,113	19,888	34,564	25	7	28,269	29	8	6,164	28	5	18			
Burgos	5	27,530	3,267	24,263	27,412	102	19	22,952	93	18	4,459	97	17	16	Buguias	3	44,506	13,907	30,508	43,784	19	6	40,626	15	6	3,150	57	12	7			
Carasi	5	21,105	1,232	19,873	19,104	116	21	13,772	117	22	5,332	89	14	28	Ilogon	1	131,071	47,777	83,294	82,126	5	3	68,090	3	2	14,037	11	4	17			
Curima	5	43,573	4,692	38,881	28,810	98	18	26,534	85	17	2,276	110	21	8	Kabayuan	4	28,371	6,508	21,862	31,022	36	11	26,818	32	10	4,204	48	10	14			
Dingras	3	74,914	18,196	56,718	51,037	39	4	48,995	31	3	2,043	112	22	4	Kapangan	4	46,850	23,820	23,030	32,044	34	10	26,769	33	11	5,274	31	8	16			
Dumalneg	5	23,311	6,283	17,027	18,100	117	22	14,559	114	21	3,540	106	20	9	Kibungan	4	27,099	13,484	13,616	34,110	26	8	31,804	22	7	2,305	63	13	7			
Marcos	4	33,129	12,593	20,536	31,553	86	17	21,274	99	19	10,279	40	8	33	La Trinidad	1	241,279	69,214	172,064	113,060	1	1	80,566	2	1	32,525	3	3	29			
Nueva Era	4	46,514	6,358	40,156	42,808	56	8	34,760	48	7	8,048	62	11	19	Mankayan	3	83,877	25,767	58,110	90,121	3	2	47,763	6	3	42,558	1	1	47			
Pagudpud	4	90,485	7,694	82,792	41,819	59	10	29,818	73	14	12,200	25	3	29	Sablan	5	26,343	8,709	17,633	27,985	42	12	22,446	51	13	5,538	30	7	20			
Paoy	4	64,018	10,322	53,696	39,835	68	14	33,310	55	10	6,525	77	13	16	Tuba	2	140,678	19,839	120,840	80,555	6	4	43,404	9	4	37,251	2	2	46			
Pasquin	4	56,596	8,895	47,711	46,336	47	7	34,173	51	8	12,163	26	4	26	Tublay	5	31,283	4,732	26,551	26,671	47	13	23,259	43	12	3,412	53	11	13			
Piddig	4	50,770	21,199	29,570	41,083	64	12	33,726	52	9	7,358	70	12	18	Iligan		342,401	101,051	241,350	367,320			316,026			49,295			13			
Pinili	4	77,637	4,066	73,571	41,712	61	11	30,951	65	13	10,760	34	5	26	Aguinaldo	3	49,204	6,891	40,513	49,543	15	1	39,625	17	1	9,918	15	1	20			
San Nicolas	3	117,660	18,924	98,736	61,475	30	3	43,609	36	4	17,866	12	2	29	Alfonso Lista	3	48,294	12,459	35,835	48,180	16	2	38,527	18	2	9,653	17	2	20			
Sarrat	4	45,056	6,455	38,602	33,148	80	15	29,236	76	15	3,912	104	18	12	Asipulo	5	20,807	4,913	15,894	26,884	52	10	22,577	47	10	3,307	56	7	13			
Solsona	4	76,118	19,964	56,154	42,678	57	9	32,312	58	11	10,365	38	7	24	Banoue	4	30,441	9,383	21,058	37,143	22	3	30,743	24	5	6,400	27	3	17			
Vintar	2	51,411	8,365	43,046	67,357	27	2	62,243	17	2	5,114	91	15	8	Hingyon	5	17,268	5,639	11,629	19,295	74	11	16,900	71	11	2,388	62	9	12			
Ilocos Sur		2,431,894	464,593	1,967,300	1,166,502			842,264.2			324,237.9			28	Hungduan	4	34,469	12,783	21,686	27,870	43	8	26,979	31	7	891	68	10	3			
Allam	4	46,763	5,735	41,028	30,961	92	17	22,727	95	17	8,234	59	19	27	Kangan	4	24,892	8,780	16,111	30,335	39	7	26,053	35	8	4,272	45	6	14			
Banayoyo	5	84,499	5,899	78,600	29,212	96	20	17,722	105	25	11,49																					

Jesus Ledesma Jalandoni, Sr.

*Peacefully joined our Creator on September 25, 2007
at the age of 91.*

His loving wife, **Angeles Soriano Jalandoni**; children:
Benny and Vicky (†), Pepet and Eileen, Jeri and Lulie,
Dee and Joey, Anna and Chris;
grandchildren: **Jamie, Ming, Nicole, Miguel, Justin, Joseph,**
Angelo, Paolo, Matthew, Kristel, Isabelle, Marielle, Marga,
Javier, Cara, Jaime.

His remains lie in state at Capilla De La Virgen, San Antonio Parish,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on September 29, 2007.

Please omit flowers.

Our Beloved Tess MA. THERESA M. ACOSTA

(Wife of John I. Acosta)

*Died in the peace of the Lord on September 24, 2007
at the age of 47.*

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Chapels Cubao.
There will be an 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Chapels
Cubao on September 29, 2007.

Interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina on the same day, 2:00 p.m.

The family is requesting for your prayers for the
eternal repose of her soul.

Our Dearly Beloved Former OIC Mayor Roberto "Bob" T. Catalig

Son of the late Ex-Mayor of Hagonoy, Bulacan,
Atty. Dominador Catalig and Dra. Mamerta Catalig

Peacefully joined his Creator on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at the age of 60.

His loving wife, **WILMA RIVERA-CATALIG**; Children **Andy Grace & Anthony, Kristine Ann "Sunshine" & Andrew, Baby Robert Vincent (†), Wilbert Raymond, Ann Marie Joy and Roberto Prince**; Grandchildren **Brian Zachary, Louis & Vince Steven; Brothers and Sister Marcial & Minerva, Leliet & Oscar, Mol & Pining (†), Dr. Rustico and Jet (†), Willy and Marilou, Boydie and Maribel**; Parents-in-law, **Mr. & Mrs. Fusting & Anita Rivera**, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, together with their other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family ancestral in San Juan, Hagonoy, Bulacan.
Interment will be on October 02, 2007 at the San Juan Memorial Park, Hagonoy, Bulacan after the 2:00 PM mass at St. John the Baptist Church.

PETER COO BENG TIAM QUE ("PETER QUE")

*... passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 26, 2007 at the age of 66.*

His bereaved wife **Margarita**; children **Rose Michelle & Jojo,** and **Christopher**; siblings **John (†) & Raymunda (†), Benito & Ruby, Alice & Domingo Go, Bengson & Debbie, Benjie and Agnes and Bengchun**; other relatives and his friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Chapel D, Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 30, 2007 at the
Manila Memorial Park at 9:00 a.m.

Death Notice

Amelia Mistades Dumagat
Died Sept. 26, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at her residence,
at 1958 J. Patino St., Sta. Ana, Manila.
Interment is on Oct. 2, at Manila South
Cemetery, Makati.

**Milagros
San Pedro
Macalino**

Died on Sept. 23, 2007
at the age of 72.

Her remains lie in
state at Dulce Funeral
Homes, Jose Abad
Santos cor. Dinalupihan
St., Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on
September 29,
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at
Eternal Garden
Memorial Park,
Balintawak, Q.C.

For any inquiries,
you may contact
Corazon or Elizabeth
Macalino at cel. No.
09274688832.

BASILIA "CELY" MUNIZ ABELEDA

Passed away on September 23, 2007 at the age of 77.

HILARIA "NENE" MUNIZ ABELEDA

Passed away on September 26, 2007 at the age of 72.

Their brothers **Gomer, Ony and Rolly**, sisters **Nene and Becky**, brother-in-law, **Pastor** and sisters-in-law, **Luming, Agnes and Millette**, nephews and nieces & relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Their remains lie in state at Chapel D, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 30, 2007 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the
celebration of the Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m.

In loving memory

ESMERALDA "Nene" E. AFRICA

Beloved sister and friend

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 25, 2007 at the age of 78.*

*May you rest in peace, bathed in God's light.
May you sleep contented in the gentle arms of our Lord.*

Her sole surviving sister **Amada A. Unite**
and children **Charo, Telly, Clavel and Angelo;**
her most cherished best friend **Erlinda R. Ureta;**
her sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and grandchildren
ask for your prayers for her eternal repose.

Her body lies in state at 117 Pres. L. Katigbak, Lipa City.
Interment will be on Monday, October 1, 2007
at Floral Garden Cemetery after the Holy Mass,
2:00 p.m. at San Sebastian Cathedral,
Lipa City, Batangas.

ELENA ASPERILLA MORALES

of Santa Ana, Manila

*Peacefully joined her Creator on Wednesday,
September 26, 2007 at the age of 86.*

She is survived by her children and grandchildren:

Rey and Fenette Obach
Ica and Francine

Gerry and Edna Dael
Sarah, Paco and Franco

Brother **Jose Asperilla** and sister **Fe Asperilla Cagampang.**

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2007
after the 10:00 a.m. funeral mass.

People, Events & Products

Grand open house: Corinthian Executive Regency

WAKE UP TO A REFRESHING view of the metropolis... walk your way to the mall for fun and exciting shopping spree, in just a few minutes...go to your workplace without having to experience traffic during rush hours... or simply relax and unwind after a day's work in the comfort of your own home. Experience all these pleasures in one roof... The Corinthian Executive Regency.

Come and join us on Sep. 28 and 29 as Cityland, one of the recognized names in the real estate industry and awarded 2007 Leading Condominium Developer National Awardee (Office of the President, HUDCC-HLURB), holds its open house on one of its newest projects in Ortigas Center—The Corinthian Executive Regency. A 39-story condominium, it is only a lot away from Robinsons Galleria, a few minutes drive to SM Megamall, Shangri-la Plaza, Edsa, Starmall, The Podium, Medical City, schools and other places of interest.

Another Cityland Ortigas project on the rise is the 40-story Grand Emerald Tower, a short distance away from The Corinthian. It will soon dominate three main avenues—Emerald, Garnet and Ruby Streets. With both projects' accessibility to MRT and main thoroughfares like Ortigas and Edsa, The Grand Emerald Tower and The Corinthian Executive Regency are truly ideal and convenient office, commercial and residential addresses.

Amenities such as 24-hour Association security, function room, children's playground, gym, separate sauna for men and women, swimming pool and roof deck jogging area will be provided to meet the demands of today's lifestyle.

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HLURB, and a member of CNBC Asia's 2005 Business Leader Awards Honor Roll list has more than 27 years in condominium development.

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